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THE ABYSS (1989) An underwater supernatural

adventure where a rescue mission team confronts mysterious sea aliens.

THE THING (1982) John Carpenter's remake of the 1951 classic - now the most repellent extra-terrestrial creature in cinema history!

This department will contain a regular column which will review films - Theatre releases or Videos new and obscure Space Monster

THE PHANTOM EMPIRE (1989) Video Release: Prism Entertainment Video

83 minutes. Reviewed by David Jenkins

red Olen Ray gives a respectful nod to the '30's serials with THE PHANTOM EMPIRE. a title originally used for a 1935 Gene Autry serial. In this interesting mixture of horror and Science-Fiction, a Landrover similar to one used in the 1936 serial UNDER-SEA KINGDOM is introduced as a vehicle for a female alien. For lovers of '50's sci-fi, a revamped Robby the Robot also turns up in the plot, but this time to foil the leads. After reading a newspaper story about a mutant creature emerging from a deep cave and killing a picnicker. Denea Chambers hired an old friend of her father, Cort Eastman, to form an expedition to find the lost world of Rilva. He, his partner Eddy Colchilde and Denea, obtain a man from the last survivor of the first expedition thru the caves, a crippled veteran geologist (played by Russ Tamblyn in a stroke of off-beat casting). They are joined by two mineral experts, Prof. Strock and Andrew Paris. After traveling several miles into the earth, they rescue a cave girl from a pack of mutant cannibals. Preparing to retire for the night, they are suddenly attacked by mutants. Using guns and ilashlights (it seems light repels mutants), they drive back these hideous creatures, only to discover Denea has been captured by them. With the aid of the cavegirl, Cort and the others rescue Denea who has been tied to a spit about to be



Sybil Danning as the Alien Queen in THE PHANTOM EMPIRE.

roasted alive! Escaping from the mutants, they run into a robot who is guarding the entrance to the lost. world of Rilva. But they manage to destroy it by deflecting its own deadly rays. However, the group is captured by a horde of cavegirls led by an Alien Queen from Outer Space who has been mining for diamonds to power her space ship for her return trip home. Eventually, Cort and the others escape and encounter several giant dinosaurs in the lost world of Rilva, But Cort tricks a Tyranosaurus Rex into attacking the Alien Queen who kills it. Stumbling into a hidden chamber, the group discover the diamond field they were searching for and fill their empty bags with it. Intending to escape the Alien and return home, they seize her Landrover and head back to the surface thru the cave tunnels with the Alien in hot pursuit. But the vehicle gets stuck near the surface. Cort and the group escape in time with their loot as the machine explodes, sealing off the tunnel, forever trapping the Alien Queen and the mutants below. Made in 1987, but released in the summer of '89. THE PHAN-TOM EMPIRE is a continuation of Ray's style of mixing sci-fi or horror with comedy. For most part, Ray's previous ventures into these genres (DEEP SPACE, STAR SLAMMER: THE ESCAPE, HOLLYWOOD CHAINSAW HOOKERS) work out very well and this one was no exception. Despite the low budget of the film, it moves at a nice pace and for the most part Dawn Wildsmith as his wisethe comedy works. At times the film seems to be "Bowery Boys At The Center Of The Earth." Especially good was Ross Hagen who Danning is believable as the



cracking, two-fisted partner, Michelle Bauer is terrific as the cavegirl who guides and helps them. Sybil Ray's better films.

thinks he's the next Indiana Jones, Amazon-like Alien Queen. The excellent dinosaur footage was supplied by Bret Mixon and the screenplay was by T.L. Lankford, One of

FORBIDDEN WORLD (1952) Video Release: Embassy Home Entertainment

82 minutes. Reviewed by Michael R. Pitts

ans of Roger Corman will be happy to know the master of movie making economy had lost none of his touch in this quickly made sci-fi item which exploited blood and gore, female pulchritude. and an ALIEN rip-off plot, all in

equal doses. Never one to waste a set or special effects when another film could be churned out using them, FORBIDDEN WORLD gets its space battle footage from Corman's BATTLE BEYOND THE STARS (1980) and its sets from his

equally exploitative GALAXY OF TERROR, FORBIDDEN WORLD is a conglomerate of Corman production leftovers and plot retreads from other genre outings, with ALIEN the most recognizable. The story opens with spaceman Mike

Colby (Jesse Vint) who is awakened from suspended animation by his robot nal Sam 104 (voice of Don Oliveral to lead a successful battle in destroying a fleet of attacking alien ships (all footage from BAT-TLE BEYOND THE STARS). After the victory, troubleshooter Colby journeys to the desolate planet of Xarbia for his next assignment. Upon arrival Colby meets Dr. Hauser (Linden Chiles), head of a research facility for genetic engineering there. With the assistance of Dr. Tinburgen (Fox Harris), Hauser's current project is trying to create a new and highly productive food source. Tinburgen tells Colby. "Welcome to the garden of Eden. We create life. The problem is - the life we create won't behave." Soon. one of the subjects the scientists created has mutated and escaped with Tinburgen labelling it a "genetic wildcat." This mutant, called er before returning inside the space The laboratory created mutant escapes and kills several members of a space

base in FORBIDDEN WORLD.

Subject 20, takes refuge in an incu- base, taking over its control room. bator and gives birth to a small Tinburgen reveals that Subject 20 creature which kills a lab worker. is half-human, having been conceiv-After escaping, it begins growing ed inside a now deceased female reand changing its genetic structure. searcher and that half its cells be-After committing several other long to Hauser. Discovering that murders, Subject 20 escapes onto the creature has now cut off the the planet's surface and kills Haus- base's communication, Hauser's



assistant Dr. Barbara Glaser (June Chadwick) attempts to communicate with Subject 20, But the monster, now a large tentacled creature, murders Barbara and pursues a research assistant Tracy Baxter (Dawn Dunlan), Meanwhile, Tinburgen reveals he is dving of cancer and persuades Colby to surgically remove his diseased tumor and feed it to Subject 20 hoping his malignant cells kill the monster. Colby carries out this assignment, feeding the cancer to the monster. bringing about its demise. While FORBIDDEN WORLD is a somewhat interesting low budget programmer, its 82 minutes seem padded with lengthy sequences of the cast walking thru long, underlit corridors. Fortunately, leading ladies June Chadwick and Dawn Dunlap's nude scenes lighten the gloom of too much blood and gore. One example is the operation sequence where Colby removes Tinburgen's tumor with his hand and the finale where Subject 20 gets nauseous after devouring the cancerous growth. Performance-wise, FOR-BIDDEN WORLD is populated by a fairly good cast, managing to keep the tepid plot afloat as it meanders to its predictable conclusion. Perhaps the most interest-

ing thing about FORBIDDEN WORLD is the monster. Aside from a passing resemblance to Corman's BEAST FROM HAUNTED CAVE (1959), it also looks like a darker version of the Venusian invader in Corman's IT CONQUER-ED THE WORLD (1956). Despite the nostalgia it generates for Corman fans, FORBIDDEN WORLD is passable space drama which will have more appeal to gore hounds than to sei-fi fans.





DEEP STAR SIX (1989) Video Release: International Video Entertainment Inc. 103 minutes Reviewed by Roger Hurlburt



Van Gelder (Marius Weyers) and Snyder (Miquel Ferrer) track down the

ix miles below the ocean, a lobster-like creature is having a crew of scientists for lunch - and it needs no bib. DEEP STAR SIX is an ALIEN-like retread of the venerable monster-on-the-loose-inclose-quarters theme that has been a mainstay of sci-fi horror films since IT! THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE (1958). The time is the near future. The U.S. Navv has established the undersea laboratory base, DEEP STAR SIX. A crew is performing experiments on undersea colonization. The Navy has agreed to finance the project. but only if the team also installs a

secret missile base. The work is almost complete. The crew, headed by Dr. Van Gelder, played moodily by South African actor, Maurius Wevers, has had enough of the uncomfortable, claustrophobic conditions at the base. One last task needs to be performed: A ledge needs to be blown up to uncover a dangerous series of caverns below the missile installation, KA-BOOM! The explosion frees the ledge, along with something big,

slithery fast - and mighty hungry. The beast, which the producers keep under wraps over an hour into the film, is a clawed thing with

multiple isws capable of eating a Volkswagon like a piece of poncorn. DEEP STAR SIX becomes a gory exercise in who will be the last to survive. Anyway, the creature gets nasty and rams the installation. A nuclear reactor goes critical, lifesupports systems go havwire and water gushes from every port. Then it enters the undersea lab and thwarts all efforts by the crew to decompress and escape. Nancy Everhard, as Joyce, and Greg Evigan, as macho Kevin, have the best roles. Their characters are resourceful and calm. Wevers, on the other hand, is a brute, while Miguel Ferrer (son of Rosemary Clooney and Jose Ferrer), as the unstable Snyder, screws up everything he touches. Why do high-stress, high-danger missions always employ a cowardly geek? Good help is hard to find - even in horror films. In all, the special effects are adequate, but the Monster - once you glimpse it is not especially impressive. DEEP STAR SIX is fun, but hardly great. It steals shamelessly from ALIEN and ALIENS, but the creature is a wimp by comparison to the mothercreeper thwarted by Sigourney Weaver. The film was written by Lewis Abernathy and Geof Miller. Direction by Sean Cunningham.



SHOCK! SHOCK! SHOCK! (1988)

Video Release: Rhino Video 60 minutes. Reviewed by Richard Boiarski



The "monstrous" alien Fangadon in SHOCK! SHOCK! SHOCK!

HOCK! SHOCK! SHOCK! is she is being pursued by a myster-Science-Fiction and horror cliches tic Star of Bartos, a rare gem. Soon, of the '50's. It also manages to Jim and Helen are trapped on a spoof the Japanese INFRA-MAN and the STAR-MAN films. There is joined by a female accomplice and are also some interesting flash- their Boss, an evil-looking figure. backs containing bloody scenes, but After they learn Jim and Helen do these are more suggestive of PSY- not have the rare gem, they throw CHO than splatter films. The only Jim off the bridge to a watery grave scene which might be considered unwholesome and in bad taste is where the hero (during a drug freakout) sees maggots crawling out of the mouth of the heroine! SHOCK! SHOCK! SHOCK! represents the the old Atomic Warehouse. The feature debut of the creative team of Todd Rutt and Arn McConnell but the gunman removes his dark whose cost-cutting shortcuts result- glasses, revealing strange bulging ed in possibly the smallest amount of money spent ever to make a film. The 60 minute film moves so rapidly that one is not conscious of the low budget look. The story opens in an insane asylum where a young mental patient. Jim Norman, is haunted by recurring nightmares of his parents being murdered 20 years ago. Accused of the crime, he escapes from the institution determined to prove his innocence. After stealing a car, he picks up a young woman, Helen Reasoner, and learns

a good natured spoof of the lous gunman who is after the Myslonely bridge by the gunman, who and Helen is abducted by the gang. But Jim survives and is rescued by Helen's father, Dr. Reasoner, With Reasoner's help. Jim learns the gang's headquarters is located in pair arrive there to rescue Helen.

reducing Reasoner to a mound of school The Boss strives and he reyeals that he is Commander Zont-El and his two underlings are aliens from the planet Stigmaton, With the Mystic Star of Bartos, Zont-El can enslave the entire earth! Jim and Helen are administered a truth serum drug in order to reveal the rare gem's whereabouts. Freaking out under its powers. Jim discovers that Zont-El was the actual murderer of his parents! Realizing he is getting nowhere. Zont-El unleashes his hideous Fangadon, a giant Space Monster! As this menacing creature comes closer, Helen removes the Mystic Star of Bartos from its hiding place. Touching the gem to his forehead. Jim recites an ancient incantation. Suddenly, a flash of light appears and he is transformed into the mighty crusader, Spaceman! After demolishing the awesome Fangadon, he destroys the evil Zont-El and his Stigmaton assistants. After a tender goodbye with Helen, Spaceman flies out the window into space.

orbs which shoot out death rays.

Filmed entirely in Brooklyn. cast. included Brad Isaac, Cyndy McCrosson, Brian Fuory and Kerry Ross, Alan Rickman, who played the leader of the aliens, deserves special note. His enthusiastic performance brought to mind the earlier classic film villainies of Lionel Atwill and George Zucco.



KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE (1988)

Video Releace: Media Home Entertainment Inc.

93 minutes. Reviewed by David Jenkins

ade by the Chiodo Bros. as spoof of '50's Science-Fiction films and THE BLOB in particular (entire chunks of THE BLOB's plot were used for this film's story-line, especially in the first half of the picture), this film is definitely worth a look. The opening is a grabber when a strangelooking comet lands near a sleepy college town, turning into a circus tent. Suddenly, a series of strange murders occur among the rural inhabitants. The make-up for these Kreepy Klowns is very good, making them look like twisted versions of Bozo the Clown and his friends. Their powers are unusual and out of this world. They also possess strange-looking weapons that shoot people with popcorn and wrap their victims in cotton candy coroons so they can be stored for food (the Klowns would "Drink" their food by sucking the life-giving fluids thru a straw). They also can instill life in balloon sculptures and shadow puppets to hunt down their victims. The acting is above average for a low budgeted film of this type (especially John Vernon, who plays Officer Mooney, a throwback to those



The flashing grin of death in KILLER KLOWNS.

old films where the backwoods sheriff hates anything connected with Teenagers. Mooney believes the Klowns are nothing more than a prank being played on him by the friends of all the teens he has

thrown in jail. Even when his friends give him reports of the Klowns' activities, he still believes it's a conspiracy against him. He is later killed by one of the Klowns in his jail and used as a puppet by the Klown when his deputy returns in a humorous but macabre sequence). An interesting Klown gimmick is that they are invulverable to bullets and all forms of Earth weaponry. Eventually, the Teenage leader rescues the town by discovering that the only way to kill them is to destroy their noses, which causes them to explode! It's touches like this that make the film seem new and refreshing. Another standout performance is veteran actor Royal Dano as a backwoods victim. If you like the '50's style of films where we got invaded by everything including a Giant Turkey, then you're going to like KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE. The film was directed by Stephen Chiodo from a screenplay by Charles and Stephen Chiodo.



Human victims dissolve after being wrapped in cotton vandy cocoons, providing liquid nourishment for the KILLER KLOWNS.

MAKER OF MONSTERS

(The Paul Blaisdell Story)

By Joseph Silverman



sters during the mid-fifties for low bud- gination and a variety of basic materget independent film companies was lials like modeling clay, plaster of paris, a quiet, soft-spoken young man nam- candle wax, burlap bags, foam rubber, ed Paul Blaisdell. Though generations chicken wire, rubber cement and even

ne of the neglected talents of film buffs have seen his work on reresponsible for an impress- runs on television, his name is unive variety of Movie Mon- known to many. From his vivid ima-

unartistic materials like long underwear came nightmarish creatures like the hideous mutant horror in THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED, the midget Martians in INVASION OF THE SAUCER MEN, the crawling carrotlike Venusian creature in IT CON-



INVASION OF THE SAUCER-MEN

OUERED THE WORLD, the deadly extra-terrestrial creature in IT! THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE. and others

Born in Boston to a non-show business family, Blaisdell's original desire was to become an artist. Later admitting how useless it was to escape your destiny, he ironically stated. "Little did. know that one day I would be associated with Horror and Science-Fiction films." Paul's wanderlust as a freelance illustrator led him to the west coast where he did covers for Science-Fiction magazines. These assignments led him to the door of the motion nicture industry where he found himself doing publicity for Lippert Pictures.

Blaisdell being attacked by "Saucer Man" from INVASION OF THE SAUCER MEN





A candid shot showing Paul Blaisdell wearing his SHE CREATURE costume outside his Topanga Canyon home.

headed by Sam Arkoff and James terrestrial being from another planet zine), who earlier remembered one of being asked to come up with some-Blaisdell's bizarre sculptures, recom- thing quickly to look effective for the

mended Paul to Corman

The plot of BEAST WITH A MIL-LION EYES concerned a sinister extra-Nicholson, were about to enter the who plotted to enslave earthlings by Science-Fiction market with a script mesmerizing animals to assault (a brief titled. BEAST WITH A MILLION clip showed a group of agitated birds EYES. But the production lacked the zeroing in on a closed vehicle, perhaps central character, the "Beast." Roger influencing Hitchcock's THE BIRDS, Corman, who was to direct it recall- appearing a few years later) the human ed. "Our budget was so low, we populace. According to the script, the couldn't afford a half-way decent alien being was never seen, so a one." Forrest J. Ackerman (later creature from a distant planet was ineditor of "Famous Monsters" maga- strumented to carry out its plans. After

cameras. Paul quickly sketched his conception of what the enslaved creature would look like and showed it to the producers who okayed it. "Returning home, I fashioned a hand puppet less than 20" high out of rubber latex and paint in my workshop. By Monday it was ready for the cam-

To add an eerie effectiveness to the creature. Corman superimposed a glowing band of light to it, which also concealed its limitations. A critic later summed up the movie by stating that the title, BEAST WITH A MILLION FYFS, was a misnomer, "There was only one pair of eyes, but it was too late to do anything about it as the audience bought their tickets and seen the film already." Despite the film's artistic limitations,

REAST WITH A MILLION EYES was a box office success. Paul's services were recruited again for American International's second venture into Science-Fiction, THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED: The story centered on a group of survivors trying to escape the effects of radioactive pollution. The "Monster" of the plot was a creature who was a biological result of an atomic war disaster. Given something resembling a budget to work with this time, Paul created a costume resembling a fungus-like skin topped with a bizarre looking head containing three eyes and a pair of curved horns. Blaisdell created the costume along his body specifications and wore it in front of the cameras. Paul gleefully recalled, "This way nobody could play the "Monster" but me. In my own eyes, I was the star of the film!" With a few exceptions, Blaisdell would repeat this practice of wearing his costumes for the rest of his film activity.

Being a small man, Paul increased the height of the costume a foot taller so he could tower over the leading lady. In order to permit vision, Blaisdell had the headpiece adjusted so he could see thru the creature's mouth. As most of his scenes were shot outdoors on location, the increasing heat inside the suit made it so uncomfortable that he could only wear it at short intervals. Though he didn't complain then, he later remarked. "On warm days, I felt as if I was in a steam

A close friend of Blaisdell revealed. "Because the unions didn't have that much control in the independents Paul worked as a make-up man, special effects man, actor, double, prop designer and costume designer in these films, learning various short cuts of the trade as he went along." This of course reinforced Paul's position as the studio's unofficial "Monster Maker", a title he half-heartedly accepted. One studio insider said. "I don't think the studio really appreciated Blaisdell's talents working under such conditions. I believe Paul knew that he was canable of better results if he had more time and money to work with, but he was too much of a professional to complain which made him ideal for working in the indies." His next assignment was for a hor-

ror melodrama, THE SHE CREATURE, which was a tale of hypnosis, reincarnation and murder. The "Creature" in this case was a young woman, who, hypnotized by a magician reverts to a prehistoric sea monster, goes on a killing spree. Boasting a good cast headed by Chester Morris. THE SHE CREATURE was a notch or two above American International's previous efforts. Paul's creation for this film was his most frightening yet. An interesting feature was a pair of claw-hooks protruding from her abdomen which were used to paralyze its victim with venom before it became a

(Bottom) Paul Blaisdell (r) and wife, Jackie, in their home display pressbook BEAST WITH A MILLION EYES while "Alien Creature" puppet which Paul created for film sits on mantlepiece. (Right) Colorful poster art.



Produced & Directed by DAVID REAMARDAY - Screenpley by TOM FRIES A SAN MATTO PICTURE - Projected by PAIO ACTO PRODUCTIONS meal. The entire suit was made of



and the BEAST

block foam rubber. Enlarged breasts were added to give the creature the appearance of a woman.

Going out on location for the water scenes in Paradaise Cove (near Malibu) caused Blaisdell some difficult moments. "As the suit was made entirely out of rubber, including the tail, it acted as a sponge. I was supposed to emerge menacingly out of the water under a pier. By the time the retakes were finished, the suit must have

(Continued On Page 56)

MONSTERS







WALK THE







EARTH

A Retrospective of the Science-Fiction films

By Richard Bojarski



he strange being from another galaxy. The mysterious visitor from another planet. He could be a shapeless mass of jelllike matter or a two-legged creative vaguely resembling a human form. Though the alen originally sprang from the pages of literature going back to the sixteenth century, it was ineviable that a transition to motion pictures would occur.

The alian in films surfaced as early as 1902 in Melies' A TRIP TO THE MOON. In this French-made space travel saga, Man encountered the first "Space Monster," a tripe of disagreeable insect-like creatures. It seemed that in this instance, Man was the invader as he used his first to dispose of the creatures.

With the exception of JUST IM-AGINE (a 1930 musical Science-Fiction comedy which featured a few ascorted Martinas in the cast), aliens did not make any appearances until the mid-thirties when creatures like Zugs, Hawkmen, Claymen, Sharkmen, Monkey Men and menacing Oragon-fike creatures surfaced in



action-packed serials like FLASH GORDON and BUCK ROGERS inspired by their comic strip counterparts.

The forties would be pretty barron ro- alien iffines a hollywood was grinding out a steady output of horror films supplying sessipine to ver-veery audiences. An interesting exception was a 1945 serial called THE PURPLE WONSTER STRIKES. In the 15 Chapter serial, a human-like Martian (Roy Barcorti) ando no earth and immediately puts in effect his plans for world destruction.

With the loss of audiences to Television in the late '40's, Hollywood searched for a gimmick to win them back. Aware that the UFO phenomen on during this period was encouraging a growing interest in Science-Fiction, an independent producer (Kurt Neumann) rushed into production a space sage called ROCKET SHIP X-M. besting a competitor's

The alien creature from INVADERS FROM MARS (left).

15





(with a similar theme) product to the screens by a month. This low budget black and white film contained tinted Martian sequences. The aliens that emerged briefly turned out to be a former advanced civilization.

The Incusion from WAR OF THE WORLDS (1952).

The box-office success of ROCKET SHIP X-M proved there was gold out there in space sagas and the race for more of the same began. Crawling, creeping, flying creatures of all sizes human-like, but primitive survivors of and shapes began to invade the movie screens. They ranged from non-animal

vegetable forms to human-like figures of advanced intellect.

Two important alien films released the following year turned out to be classics of the genre. The first was THE THING, a gripping tale (with horror overtones) of a monstrous creature lives of US airman stationed near the

from another planet who threatens the their war-like ways for peace. The first alien film to use color was

North Pole. The second one was DAY from a low budget studio. Monogram THE EARTH STOOD STILL where the called, FLIGHT TO MARS, in this procreature, human-like in appearance grammer, the Martians were humanand possessing divine powers, reveals like in appearance and hoped to use himself to be an emissary from an or- the earthling's ship as a model to build ganization of planets whose mission is an invasion fleet to conquer the earth. to convince the earthlings to abandon. The first alien film to use 3-D was Uni-







Top: Robby the Robot confront two

becomes a bloodthirsty creature after

returning from orbiting planet Saturn in THE INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN

Earthlings in FORBIDDEN PLANET (1955). Middle: Astronaut Alex Rebar

(1977). Bottom: E.T., THE EXTRA-

TERRESTRIAL (1982).

An attempt to inject comedy in this cycle of alien films was ABBOTT AND COSTELLO GO TO MARS where the comedy team actually land on Venus and are confronted by a race of manhating, but beautiful Amazons ruled by Queen Allura. The Three Stooges also got into the act with humorous confrontations with Martians and Venusians in HAVE ROCKET, WILL TRAVEL and THE THREE STOOGES IN ORBIT

To attract audiences of a mature nature, alien films were given the big budget treatment with Wide-Screen, Technicolor, elaborate special effects and settings in films like WAR OF THE WORLDS, THIS ISLAND EARTH and FORBIDDEN PLANET while low budget independent companies continued to grind out "B" films like ROBOT MONSTER and CAT-WOMEN OF THE MOON.

On the other hand, a few films with modest budgets later became cult fav-



versal's, IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE. Though the creatures' presence here seems sinister when it assumes many human guises (its authentic form resembles a blood shot eye floating in a jar of alcohol), its real motive is to move on after its space shin is renaired.

VASION OF THE BODY SNATCH-ERS in which seed pods from outer space grew identical reproductions of human beings in which individuals were deprived of private emotions and moral decisions.

As the exhibitor demand for



Science-Fiction increased, Hollywood increased their production schedules resulting in more than forty films combining the genres of horror and Science Fiction which were released during the 1957-58 season in the New York City area.

Two of the best alien films from abroad came from England. The first was THE CREEPING UNKNOWN experimental space flight is transformexpert Ray Harryhausen. ed into a creeping fungus that drains earthlings of their blood. The second one was FIRST MEN IN THE MOON. In this interesting adaptation of H.G. Wells novel against a Victorian setting,

Another British-made alien film

made in the late fifties that combined horror and Science-Fiction successfully was FIRST MAN INTO SPACE. During a space voyage, a lone astronaut becomes covered with a mysterious laver of cosmic dust. Returning to his missile base, he is transformed



members of an expedition to the moon

discover a race of insect moonmen

called Selenites. The realism of these

An alien caterpillar creature in FIRST MEN IN THE MOON (1964).



into a blood-thirsty ghoul and be-

comes a menace to every living thing he encounters

As the sixties and seventies march ed on, changes in the alien appeared olds are discovered in an alien space-Unexplained space mist, advanced computers and the character of Spock gave the alien a sense of frailty as well stores up energy by sucking the life as advanced intellect. An interesting example was the 1976 film THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH concerning an android who journeys to earth to obtain water for his dry planet, Instead, he becomes corrupted by our society and becomes a disclusioned alcoholic.

An off-beat mixture of vampirism, aliens and soft-core porn was a Britishmade Tobe Hooper film called LIFE- tious TV shows featuring life forms

L THE FINAL BATTLE

FORCE (1985). Following a space ex ploratory expedition to Halley's Comet, three apparently lifeless humancraft and brought back to earth, one of which is a beautiful female who out of human beings with her deadly lips. Before she is finally destroyed, nearly the entire populace of London are turned into gruesome, undead cadavers

Aliens have not been strangers to TV as they have menaced space heroes since the early days of CAP-TAIN VIDEO. One of the most ambi

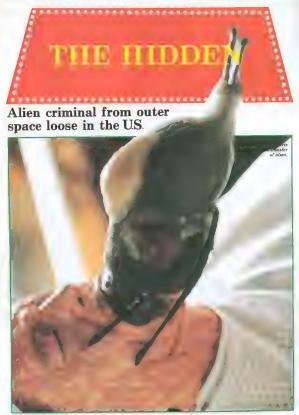
from outer space was the miniseries, V: THE FINAL BATTLE (1983-84) whose saga concerned American freedom fighters battling alien invaders from another planet. The aliens were fizard-like creatures in human quise who harbored a distinct dislike for be ing unmasked. Despite the aliens' use of 28th Century technology to conquer our planet, the earthlings eventually defeat the invaders. The spectacular special effects helped win the show the highest ratings of the season

Another noteworthy attempt in the TV medium was the % hour anthology series. MONSTERS (1988-89) whose episodes seemed reminiscent of radio's old midnight suspense tales. Though the scripts did not always focus on Science Fiction, the few that did featured imaginative alien make ups by veteran Dick Smith who serv ed as special effects make-up consul-

Two of the biggest grossers of the late '70's and early '80's turned out to he alien films. They were CLOSE EN-COUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND







THE HIDDEN Cast and Credits

Tom Beck Michael Nouri Lloyd Gallagher Kyle MacLachian Cliff Willis Ed O'Ross Ed Flynn Clu Gulager Brenda Lee . . . Claudia Christian John Masterson Clarence Felder Johnsthan Miller . . . William Boyett Sanchez Richard Brooks Barbara Beck Catherine Cannon Brem Larry Cedar Holt John McCann Jack DeVries Chris Mulkey A New Line Cinema Release, Produced by Robert Shave, Directed by Jack Sholder, Screenplay by Bob Hunt, Cinematography by Jacques Haitkin. Production Design by C.J. Strawn and Mick Strawn, Set Decorations by James Barrows, Costumes by Melissa Daniel. Film Editor, Michael Knue, Special Effects, Kevin Yagher

eminiscent of THE TER-MINATOR ('84) where an alien inhabited Arnold Schwarzenegger's body, THE HID-DEN is an off-beat interesting combination of Science-Fiction adventure and police thriller. Also resembling to a degree the plot of a sci-fi novel, NEEDLE (by Hal Clement), where the villain was a hideous, malevolent organism with only one desire, the acquisition of absolute power, THE HIDDEN's story-line focuses on an alien detective-cop and his alien prey who possess the abilities to inhabit different human bodies while playing out a dangerous game of the hunter and the hunted. But the evil alien nearly becomes the President of the United States - tipping the balance of power in the world.

he story does not begin on a I far away distant planet, but in modern day Los Angeles on an ordinary day, DeVries, a young stockbroker, suddenly goes beserk and goes on a crime spree. He brazenly holds up a bank, steals a car and crashes thru several police roadblocks. After a high-speed sequence, a battery of police force the car into a violent crash, where a fatally wounded DeVries, full of slugs, is taken to a hospital.



The alien in its second stage of transformation - which was not used in film.



That same day, in police headquarters, veteran detective Tom Beck is approached by a mysterious FBI man Lloyd Gallagher (Kyle MacLachlan) for his assistance in tracking down DeVries who is a wonted fugitive in Seattle. Learning

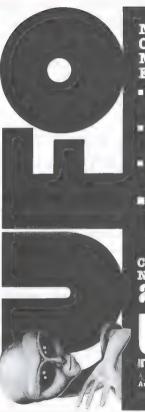
Detective Tom Beck (Michael Nouri) and FBI agent Llayd Gallagher (Kyle MacLachlan) team to solve a baffling series of murders.

DeVries is on the brink of death, Gallagher rushes to the hospital. There DeVries rises from his deathbed and forcefeeds a hideous rentilian alien into the mouth of a nearby mild-mannered accountant who is a heart patient. Possessed by this alien, Miller rises from his sickbed and holts from the hospital. He then steals a car, a portable radio and heavy metal cassette tanes slaving several neonle in his nath. Desnite Gallagher's explanation that De-Vries and Miller were members of the same criminal gang that murdered his partner and wife. Beck is still skeptical as both men had no prior arrest records and were good cutizens prior to their sudden crimes of violence and murder!

Realizing his body has a bad heart, the alien transfers stell ransfers the thought the hody of a gorgoous strapper un a strip joint. After committing must der there, she gets into a furious shootout with the police and escapes. Pursued by Gallagher and Beek in a wild aer chase to an abendoned mannequin war-house, she flees to the roof where Beek nation is the strip to there Beek nation of these Beek nation of the Beek in a wild Gallagher. During an exchange to

Stripper Brenda Lee (Claudia Christian) has a violent surpruse in store for a flirtatious drunk (Joey Sagall).





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gunfire, she falls to her death from the roof, but the alien immediately finds another residence in the body of a nearby stray dog.

Suspicious of Gallagher and his vague explanation of the strange happenings, Beck has him arrested and discovers a strange-looking hand gun on his person. Beck also learns that he is not an FBI agent, but a stranger who is impersonating a dead agent, Gallagher finally reveals that he is an alien police officer from the planet Altair and is nursuing an evil alien across the palaxy. Refusing to believe this story. Beck places him under arrest. Seeking Gallagher, the evil alien takes possession of Beck's fellow officer and becomes engaged in a gun battle in the police station before he is killed by his fellow officers. Convinced that Gallagher was telling the truth Reck also learns that the alien can only be destroyed while it's changing bodies with a deadly ray from Gallagher's weapon. Now in possession of the body of Officer Willis, the alien flees to a political rally where he has been assigned to

provide security to a senator running for President.

Aware that he is being pursued by Gallagher, the alien leaves body, giving him a new home. Willis' body and enters the Senator's body in the Men's Room. Finally arriving with Beck, Gallagher penetrates his adversary's new guise and tries to move in on the Senator but is stopped by the latter's bodyguards. Believing the pair intend to harm the Senator, the bodyguards open fire and a massive gun battle ensues, during which Beck is fatally wounded.

Realizing the awful probability of an evil alien becoming the future President of the United States, Gallagher makes another effort to nail his man. Armed with a flame thrower, he forces the alien out of the Senator's body with its fiery blaze to the horror of a roomful of spectators. Gallagher then finally destroys the alien with a deadly ray from his meanon. After arriving at the hospital with his dving fellow cop. Gallagher waits until the room is empty of visitors and then silently

After a violent shootout, Detective Beck lies wounded as FBI agent Gallagher kneels at his side.

im Kouf who wrote the screenplay (under the pseudonym of Bob Hunt) stated that the alien villain who turns ordinary people into deadly killing machines reveal the hidden wishes of people who want to act out their most antisocial fantasies, but who are unable to do so in real life. Kouf added, "Another significant factor was the growing relationship between the cop and the good alien. Toward the end they learn humanity from each other. This to me, was the most important part of THE HIDDEN."

An interesting highlight of the film was the grotesque scene showing the evil alien (resembling a slimy, slug-like creature) transferring itself from the mouth of one human body to another. Though forcefeeds his alien into Beck's this scene only occurs twice in the

film - Once in the beginning and the second time at the end it is not something you will forget easily. The realism of this scene (controlled by Special Effects man Kevin Yagher) may turn a few stomachs, but its effectiveness makes the fantastic nature of the plot easier to swallow Only 25 at the time. Yagher was

FREDDY'S REVENGE and CO-COON, among others). He recalled. "Jim Kouf's script gave no description of what the evil alien looked like, aside from a ' . black membranous pulsating glob . "', After a few conferences with Producer Robert Shave and Director Jack Sholder, he envisioned a parasitic snail-like creature, revealing organs which visually pulsated. The creature was finally made out of a rubbery substance called vinvl because it had that slightly transparent quality. Yagher added: "They also gave me the opportunity to contribute any ideas concerning camera angles and direction, which no doubt contributed to the realism of the scenes involving the

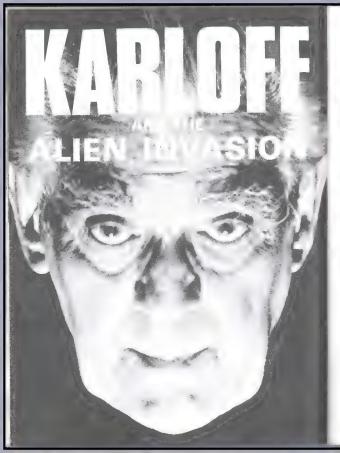


For action fans, there are scenes galore of exciting car chases and violent shootouts. But this only adds to the growing suspense as the alien cop attempts to destroy the repulsive-looking creature before it enters another human form (it. seems the evil alien can only be destroyed by a special ray gun while

Finally cornering his augrey, Gallagher is gunned down by the Senators bodyquards (above). Armed with a flamethrower, Gallagher nails the alien

pected success of this low budget (\$4 million) film inspired a two part TV movie called SOMETHING OUT THERE. In this version, the good alien cop was a female





Karloff battles aliens from outer space and inner space

By David Jenkins



utside of the few sciencefiction films (THE IN-VISIBLE RAY, THE DEVIL COMMANDS and DIE, MONSTER, DIE), Karloff's film output were mostly in the horror genre. However, toward the last year of his life, Karloff made two invasion films - One from outer space (THE INCREDIBLE IN-VASION) and one from inner space (THE FEAR CHAMBER), In 1968, Mexican producer Luis Vergara signed the veteran actor to a four picture deal the two "invasion" films plus HOUSE OF EVIL and ISLE OF THE SNAKE PEO-PLE. Writer-Director Jack Hill was supposed to write the scripts and Mexican Director Juan Ibanez was

to shoot the films

Because of Karloff's poor health the had emphysema and arthritish, he had to shoot his scenes at Columbia Studios in Hollywood. So Jack Hill fashioned his acript so Karloff was in a limited number of scenes in order not to tax the actor's energy. The rest of the film's scenes would be shot in Mexico. But the four productions were fillde with problems from the first day,

The Mexican actors who showed up were not the ones promised by Vergara. To further complicate matters, Hill recalled often they did not show up on time so he had to keep changing the shooting schedule all the time. Also the producer was never on the set when problems

arose. Union problems forced them to hire one American for every member of the Mexican crew However, the American crew shot all of Karloff's seemes. The Mexican crew was not allowed to shoot anything, until they were back in Mex.oc. nutil they were back in Mex.oc. can changes every few minutes and the last 20 minutes of the film suffer from poor dubbing at intervals, especially in Karloff's remaining scopes

Hill also recalled that despite Karloff's approval of the scripts. Director Ibanez, without his consent, rearranged some of the plot in THE FEAR CHAMBER and SNAKE PEOPLE in Mexico and that portions of them bore little



Special Effects, Ross Hahn. Assistant Cinematographer. Mindy Bagden. Sound, Frank Murphy. Production Manager, Jack Bohyer.

In the year 1800, in the town of Gudenburg. Professor Mayer (Bons Karloff) attempts to construct a machine to harmers the destructive powers of a radioactive element. During his experiments, Mayer's house is nearly destroyed by an explosion, but he discovers a powerful ray which he imprisons in a machine of his own design. Hearing of his discovery, the military tries to persuade the Professor to transform his invention into a military weapon, but Mayer intends his machine for the benefit of mankind.

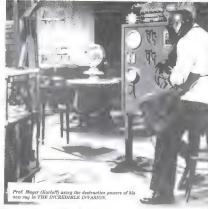
Concerned that humans would use this new force as a weepon that might destroy the world, two aliens from a distant planet are sent to earth to destroy this power and discredit the Professor, so no one will continue his work. After the aliens enter the bodies of an escaped continue, and the Professor, when the professor, so means the professor with the professor when the professor with the professor with the professor when the professor with the professor when the professor with the professor when the professor was the professor was the professor when the professor was the professor was

the convict begins to go on a murderous rampage (his first film is his mistress, Isabel), causing the local villagers to send out search parties.

The alien in the Professor's body tries to make his invention go wild and explode, destroying everyone in the area, but Mayer resists thus move. Hearing the villagers are heading to Mayer's home believing he is somehow connected with these strange murders, Mayer's assistant, Paul, rides off to stop them, but he fails

The convict attempts to kill Mayer's niece, Laura, but Paul appears and tries to intervene, but is nearly killed by Thomas. Professor Mayer finally regains control of his body and saves Paul by blasting the convict's face with the ray. The convict escapes, only to be found and killed by the villagers.

The alien escapes Mayer's body and enters his niece's body. She then tries to destroy them by starting a chain reaction in the atomic ray machine, but Mayer stops her and tricks the alien into leaving her





Karloff as Professor Mayer in THE INCREDIBLE

resemblence to what he had written. This may explain why the contradictions in the plot and characters Because of Vergara's death and the legal tangles between Columbia and Vergara, ISLE OF THE SNAKE PEOPLE and THE FEAR CHAMBER finally reached American Television and Spanishspeaking theatres in 1975. THE IN-CREDIBLE INVASION (reportedly Karloff's last film) surfaced earlter in 1971 in Spanish-speaking theatres in Los Angeles. In 1978 HOUSE OF EVIL was released, ten years later after it was made.

THE INCREDIBLE INVASION

Cast and Credits

Professor Mayer... Beris Karloff
Level Meura Moura Molitar
Level Carlot Edited
Level Carlot Edit
Level Carlot Edit
Thomas Carlot Edit
Thomas A Columbia 1971 release Productly
Lais Vergara. Directed by Jack Hill and
Joan Banez. Secomplay by Jack Hill
Assistant Director, Beech Dickersonsy
and Raul Dominguez. Art Direction,
Rey Markham Make-Up, Louis Lane.

body He then traps it in an energy field and sets the machine to selfdestruct. They escape in time and watch the house and machine explode. The alien returns to his ship and leaves earth, aware that the universe is safe (for now) from man's destructive inventions.

While ISLE OF THE SNAKE PEOPLE is considered the best of the series. THE INCREDIBLE IN-VASION contains Karloff's best. performance of the four films. His Professor Mayer is the only performance which comes close to the standards of his scientific portrayals of 20 years earlier. Unfortunately, too much footage is focused on Yerye Beirute who played the homicidal escaped convict who hunts, seduces and kills his female victums. Beirute is effective at playing brutish roles in such films as BRING ME THE VAMPIRE. A MODERN BLUEBEARD and BOOM TO THE MOON with Bus-



Relieving that the Creature needs

fear-charged blood to grow so it can

link up with computers and give

necessary information on hidden

denosits of valuable minerals like

oil, gold and diamond deposits,

ter Keaton, but in this film and in in the tunnel. Soon, they discover THE FEAR CHAMBER, he tends a Creature made of stone, and bring to overact too much. The interior of it back to Mantell's laboratory. the alien's space-ship was also used as the Funeral Chamber for Karloff's body in HOUSE OF EVIL.

THE FEAR CHAMBER

Cast and Credits Dr. Mantell Boris Karloff Corinne..... Julissa Mark Carlos East Helga Isela Vega Roland Yerye Beirute A Columbia 1975 release. Produced by Luis Vergara, Directed by Jack Hill and Juan Ibanez, Screenplay by Jack Hill. Assistant Director, Beech Dickerson. Cinematography, Austin McKinney and Raul Dominguez. Art Direction, Ray Markham, Make-Up, Louis Lane. Special Effects, Ross Hahn, Assistant Cinematographer, Mindy Bagden. Sound, Frank Murphy. Production Manager, Jack Bohyer.

n order to prove Dr. Mantell's (Boris Karloff) theory of intelligent life beneath the surface, his daughter. Corinne, and his assistant. Mark, explore underground tunnels that burrow several miles under the earth. Wearing special heat resistant suits, and using sensitive radio equipment, they report to geobiologist Mantell and his other assistant, Helga, that they are receiving strong signals ahead 32

agency/hostelery in a nearby big city for young women. Using this as a front. Mantell has a "Fear Chamher" to produce terror in these vic-

Being put up for the night in this hostelery while waiting for a job, each girl wakes up in a hidden "torture" chamber where she is attacked and chased by several frightening creatures including a hulking half-wit. Roland. She is also subjected to a Devil's cult sacrificial ritual supervised by a hooded Mantell. Unconscious from fear, the girl's blood is drained and its hormones are fed to this Rock Creature. The girls are then returned to their rooms where they have no memories of their night of

During one evening in the deserted laboratory, a female cat burglar breaks in and is killed by the Creature who has now grown a smister-looking tube/tentacle to suck out fear-charged blood from its victims, causing them to die from accelerated aging, Believing the Creature may claim more victims because of its hookup with computers, Dr. Mantell decides to destroy the Creature. But he has a beart seizure and is confined to bed. While he is recuperating, Mark and Corinne leave for a brief vacation During their absence, Helga and Roland decide to exploit the Rock Creature's knowledge of the earth's precious metals for their own selfish ends. But the Creature gives them useless information and instead drains the computer of knowledge to send messages to all of its fellow Rock Creatures beneath the earth, for a world takeover Under the control of the Creature,

Roland kills Helga and feeds her to the Creature which has by this time increased its size. After Mantell is roused from bed by the returning Mark and Corinne, he learns what happened and uses the computer to destroy the Reck Creature. In the meantime, Roland is killed by an earthquake while searching for diamonds in a maze of underground passages. Dr. Mantell wonders if they have stopped the Creature before it could transmit information to other Creatures, or will they hear from them again?



THE FEAR CHAMBER is probably the most tasteless of the four

films that Karloff made for Vergara. There are no beroes in THE FEAR CHAMBER. Everyone is willing to sacrifice innocent girls to a Creature with no regards of its consequences. Karloff's character here resembles more his mad scientist roles of the forties than the kindly Professor of THE INCRED-IBLE INVASION. He does not hesitate about using the girls (until one almost dies of fright in THE FEAR CHAMBER) and even shares a laugh with the hero (?) about one of their victims waking up and finding herself covered with leeches and maggots.

His daughter even tries to justify the near-death of one victim, remarking that no one will look for "- A 'Nobody' going nowhere!" Karloff's assistant, who is no less concerned about the fates of their victims, states that better lives than these have been given in the name of science. Unpleasant plot elements aside, THE FEAR CHAMBER is still grand fun while giving us the opportunity to see a master of his craft play once more the type of menace that he has been associated with during his long







hough Karloff's best known film role was the Frankenstein Monster, he also established a reputation for crazed scientists and medical men, making it appropriate that he end his career in similar roles in THE FEAR CHAMBER and THE IN-CREDIBLE INVASION. But older fans remember his earlier roles with enthusiasm when he appeared as "Dr. Rukh" who tried to harness the destructive powers of "Radium X" in THE INVISIBLE RAY, as the mysterious "Dr. Laurience" who tried to use his invention of transferring "brain matter" from one body to another in destroying a rival in THE MAN WHO LIVED AGAIN; as "Dr. Savaard" he tried to test his mechanical heart invention in restoring life to the dead with a human quinea pigin THE MAN THEY COULD NOT HANG; as "Dr. Krayaal" he tries to test his theory of "frozen therapy" for curing cancer by freezing victims of

this disease in THE MAN WITH NINE LIVES and as "Dr. Adrian" he tried to effect a cure for polio by obtaining spinal fluid from unwilling donors but pays for it with his life in THE APE

Karloff's scientists, though ranging from eccentricity to madness, were basically sympathetic, unselfishly dedicated to the good of mankind. As the world is being menaced by UFOs and other outer space phenomena, science since then has dwarf ed the scientist in this nuclear age, making mad scientists old fashioned and out of date. However Karloff's contribution to film history will not be forgotten despite the scientist's role today is of a more practical one - more preoccupied in defeating mankind's enemies whether they be toxic germ warfare or the dangers of encroaching industrial pollution

- Richard Bojarski



Dr Henry Savaard (Karloff) about to restore life with his mechanical heart in THE MAN THEY COLLD NOT







ALIEN NIGHTMARES

The Aliens from THE OUTER LIMITS

By Gary Levinson



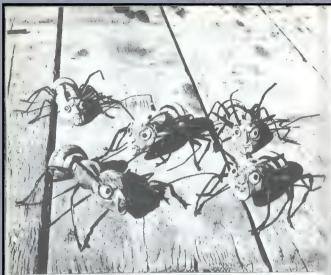
ack in the fall of 1963, an usual TV sense debuted against the landscape of routine, commercial Television. OUTER LIMITS was the ame of the show and its familiar trademark was its opening narration ominously narrated by an unseen host, "... There is nothing wrong with your television set ..." Though it wasn't the first Science-Fiction series produced for Television, it was the first attempt to put together a serious antholory series backed by immigrative

scripts and high ideals. Each episode explored the human situation thru the framework of science. It also presented the most bizarre, unworldly alien beings, the like of which had not yet been seen on TV up to that time Other Science-Fiction shows like TALES OF TOMORROW SPACE PATROL, CAPTAIN VIDEO enjoyed varying success, but (with a few exceptions) were mostly forgotten. The only successful rival to OUT-ER LIMITS in quality was Rod Serling's TWILIGHT ZONE. Though the latter show's domain was fantasy, it occasionally ventured in Science-Fiction. All the success of OUTER LIMITS were thru the talents of Leslie Stevens and Joseph Stefano, Though Stevens (who created the series) has gone on to be associated with other Science-Fiction Television shows like BATTLESTAR GALACTICA and BUCK ROGERS, OUTER LIMITS has remained his most principal achieve-

Discovering a knack for writing during his grade school years, Stevens won a playwriting contest at the age of 15 sponsored by Orson Welles and his Mercury Theater. "This occurred in Washington, D.C. where I was attending High School. I became a go-for, attended rehearsals and even did walk-ons. Belief olose to Orson and watching him work was one of the most exciting moments in my life."
After a year of this, Stevens was forced to resume his schooline.

Following a respectable success as a Broadway playwright, Stevens began writing scripts for TV in 1955, aventually becoming a producer with STONEY BURKE, starring Jack Lord for his company, Daystar Productions. Stevens recalled. "The rides for a TV





originated between vice-president of programming at ABC Danny Melnick and myself. Because the network would go along with it only it if was a monster show - we had to include a monster in the first five minutes." And so OUTER LIMITS was born.

he first episode that debuted in the Fall of 1963 was called THE GALAXY BEING It concerned a radio engineer who experiments with a three-dimensional Television receiver and comes in contact with an alien from another planet. What distinguished this show from the others was that the star (Cliff Robertson) was the highest paid actor to work in the series Stevens recalled this episode. conquer earth. Though some mo-

Science-Fiction anthology series The over-sized ant-like aliens in "The Zantı Misfits.

> ments of destruction occur when it becomes irritable when earthlings refuse to listen to it. This was a theme which would recur throughout the series." The allowing, quivering, mouthless alien from Andromeda in THE GALies' better remembered monsters

for his Daystar Productions, Leslie Stevens persuaded his old friend screenwriter Joseph Stefano (his big- CONTROLLED EXPERIMENT revolv gest credit was PSYCHO) to sign on ed around two Martians (Barry Morse as producer, "Joe turned out to be a and Carroll O'Connor) who investigate wise choice. He kept the show mov- an "odd" custom of murder practicing in the right direction during that ed by Earthlings. first season." Determined to make the show a success. Stefano soon took ible for the success of the show rest-"The alien in this story was not out to control of every phase of production ed on the Alien "Monsters" that turnand encouraged excellence in every ed up in each story, Stefano insisted

department, "We didn't have the big budgets of today," Stefano recalled, "Then each show cost around \$135,000 - \$150,000. But one particular episode, CONTROLLED EXPERI-MENT, was shot in four days and only cost under \$90,000. To do this, we cut corners by shooting certain scenes AXY BEING became one of the ser- in slow motion. Also we only used 5 actors and 3 sets. Our Art Director. cost-saving devices like camouflaging old sets into new ones." The plot of

Realizing that a large factor respons-

UFOS AND THE SPACE BROTHERS

Psychics spiritual leaders, scientists and UFO contactees all agree that we are living in what has been called the END

- . The foundation of our civilization is about to crumble.
- The physical world as we know it is going to be destroyed Psychic spiritual and "other-worldly" forces are about to take

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of the most highly respected contactees from more advanced beings who reside on other planets and in other dimensions. Unanimously, they agree that a global catastrophe will soon sweep over our nation as well as the rest of the world. According to the SPACE BROTHERS whom they are in

contact with time is running out. We are being told the Earth is rapidly entering the twelfth-AND FINALS-hour for humankind. All indications are that a "time bomb of destruction" is about to go off ridding the planet of civilization as we have come to accept it. The Book of Revelations will be lomorrow's headlines as Armageddon enough the globe

There are those who say a THIRD WORLD WAR is on the immediate horizon, that an ecological imbalance is now taking place, and a shifting of the North and South Poles is due which could tip the earth out of its present orbit and send it hurtling

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warning have said that the "Chosen Ones" who "are ready" will be saved and taken off this planet just in the nick of time. Our special, fully illustrated report, a 50 000 word book titled PSYCHIC & UFO REVELATIONS IN THE LAST DAYS, IS THE most comprehensive volume ever put together on the subject There is no other work like it as this book has been inspired from above. These are some of the important things you will learn - things you will NEED to know in order to make the transition from this physical dimension into a higher resim. . Specific date on land changes, Find out which States will be geographically altered and the "safe" places to go to be out of immediate danger

 A fime table indicating when these events will begin to take prace and the order in which they will occur Exact "signs" and "wonders" to watch for which will indicate

stories, but this volume actually presents useful data which could change your life and help you to survive DOOMSDAY! PSYCHIC & UFO REVELATIONS IN THE LAST DAYS IS available by ordering now. Send for a copy right away and we will include a subscription to our sensational UFO REVIEW Magazine, as well as a special meditation you can use in order to establish contact for yourself with these highly advanced alien beings-the space brothers-who are watching over

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by space ship will take place in which hundreds of flying

saucers will come down out of the sky and 'lift off' the worthy.

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make certain you are among "the chosen. Some of those who have contributed to this valuable reference include New Agers Bred and Francis Steiger; Space

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Robert Culp in "The Architects of Fear" episode (above). Producer Joseph Stefano with the "Tehthyosaurus Mercurius" creature from the "Tourist Attraction" (belong.

that the special effects and make-up designers come up with the meat ter-rifying monsters they could devise. 840,000 of the budget for each sive would be spent to schieve this. Elaborate plastic-rubber monstroates were manufactured by the Ray Mercer Company and Projects Unlimited Armong the Make-Up Men recruited to handle the more difficult sesignments were John Chambers and Fried Phil were John Chambers and Fried Phil

One of the more unusual OUTER LIMITS episodes was THE ZANTI MISFITS. The story centered on a distant planet ruled by footlong antlike aliens possessing semi-human features who have achieved a solution to crime on their planet. Unable to execute their own kind, they have forced the Earth leaders to exile their criminals on this world. The critics complained that these repellant creatures exploited the human fears of crawling, creeping things, though the majority of the viewers enjoyed the more than usual amount of goosebumps and shivers groduced by these creatures, making THE ZANTI MISFITS one of the more unforgettable OUTER LIMITS episodes. The nightmere realism of these extra-terrestrial creatures was manufactured by the talents of stop motion genius Wah Chang of Project Unlimited

Derhaps the most bizarre-looking alien creature in the series made its appearance in the final episode of the series, titled THE PROBE, Obviously made on a modest budget, the story opened up on the survivors of an ocean plane crash who discover themselves sitting motionless in an apparently solid sea. But in reality, they are in an enormous Space Probe under a microscope engineered by giant aliens The "Monster" in this episode is an oversized mutated alien microbe re sembling a shapeless, scab-like, crust covered blob which menaces the survivors Janos Prohaska, who was skill ed in creating monster suits, played the creature in this costume of his own

Trying to give the series a distinctive, out of this world look (Some interesting examples are the aften planets in the segments, THE MOON-STONE and THE INVISIBLE FINEMY).





The "Alian Soldier" from "Keeper of the Purple Twillight."

Stefano permitted his cimenatographers liberty to experiment. This resulted in a visually distinctive look, so famlillar to viewers throughout the first season of the show. Conrad Hall, formerly Ted McCord's camera coperator, became one of the alternating cinematographies on OUTER LIMTIS. Hel later went on to win an OUTER CASIDY
AND THE SUNDANCE KID

Many young actors who later become famous started their careers by appearing on OUTER LIMITS. Among them were Martin Sheehan, Leonard Nimoy and William Shatter (in their pre-STAR TREK days), Adam West, Martin Landau, David McCellum, Robert Duvall and Robert Culp who appeared in three segments. Towards the end of the first season, OUTER LIMITS gradually achieved high ratings, but the network seezules thought the show might get a bigger audience if they switched if from Monday nights to Saturday nights opposite the JACKLE (ELASON SHOW). The Monday night slot was filled in by Invin Allen's VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA. Realizing that this change would affect the resings of the show, Stefano resigned and was replaced by provision of the state of the show stefano resigned and was replaced by provider Both Brade whose biosest credituder Blast Brade whose biosest credituders.

it was THE PERRY MASON SHOW. With Stafano and Stevens gone, the network decided to improve the show. Hoping to attract a bigger audience, there was more emphasis on the scientific angle, though the mon-

sters remained. Budget cuts reduced the quality of the scripts which also eliminated the careful mood-building chematography approach, reducing it to the usual flat style. These changes did not attract enough viewers to offset the enormous competition of the GLEASON SHOW. Inevitably, THE OUTER LIMITS was cancelled in the Fall of 1984.

Because OUTER LIMITS has been in syndication in different parts of the country, the show has not been forgotten. Still working on various projects, Stefano commented: "I'm still smazed and happy at Science-Fiction flars who still write me tailing me how much they enjoyed the show after all these years."

ALIENS

Return to Acheron, planet of death!





ALIENS

Cast and Credits Ripley . . . Sigourney Weaver Newt Carrie Henn Corporal Hicks . . Michael Biehn Burke Paul Resser
Bishop Lance Henriksen Private Hudson Bill Paxton Lieutenant Gorman William Hope Private Vasquez Jenette Goldstein Sergeant Apone .. Al Matthews Private Drake . . . Mark Rolston Private Frost Ricco Ross A 20th Century Fox release, Produced by Gale Anne Hurd. Direction and Screenplay by James Cameron, Based on characters created by Dan O'Bannon and Ronald Shusett, Cinematography by Adrian Biddle, Music by James Horner. Special Effects by Stan Winston, The L.A. Effects Group. Make-Up by Peter Robb-King, Art Direction by Bert Davey, Fred Hole, Michael Lamont, Ken Court, Film Editor, Ray Lovejov, Set Design by Crispian Sallis.

he long-awaited sequel to ALIEN is a high tech shocker of a Science-Fiction movie which uses a generous display of military hardware in its action sequences. As before, the story is set in the distant future, but 67 years after ALIEN ended. The central figure is Sigourney Weaver who repeats her role from the original film, dominating the cast in a macho, gun-wielding man-er (This is an interesting switch, as in films of this type the hero is usually male).

Of the many gruesome scenes in the film, the strongest is the one showing a human-like android split in two by the alien Queen like a centipede being torn apart! Though the alien monsters are visible on the screen a fraction too much - they

While investigating the apparently deserted Earth colony in Acheron, Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) is attacked by the "Facehugger."

are still truly awesome and frightening. The heroine's climactic buttle with the alien Queen guarding her eggs like a mother hen results in making ALLENS the best action monster movie seen in years. It isn't often that a sequel comes up to the original — but this one does.

Ripley (Sigourney Weaven, a been discovered in a state of suspended animation for 57 years in an outer space mineral tanker (the Nostromo) She had been sole survivor after defeating an indescribable murderous alien who slaught



Soon, she finds herself facing the Company's Board of Inquiry who hold her responsible for the destruction of the mineral tanker. Unable position and is reduced to a menial

the strange alien creature they also hold her responsible for the loss of the crew. Ripley is fired from her





pany Man, Burke, who places the value of the Company's mineral investments in the galaxy above guerything else.

Finally arriving on the silent planet, they discover the Colony absent of any human life, but evidence of a last stand in an empty corridor remain. The only survivor is a child. Newt, who arouses Ripley's maternal instincts. A horrible moment oceral of the colonist's bodies hung on the walls like meat in a butcher shop in an isolated storage room. With no warning, a young alien victims. creature bursts thru the chest of one of the bodies (It seems that the lifeless bodies were being used as birth vessels for the alien young!). Others ing their ship, they were forced to ing members of the platoon. leave their ammunition aboard as

consequences if a stray bullet hit some sensitive part of the installation. Each creature was about a foot long, their spidery bodies were covered with a slimy substance their mouths would house a snake-like tongue which would quiver grotesquely. Projected by bursts of sheer energy, they would attack their victims by landing on their faces, attaching their pincer-like claws with curs when the platoon discover sev- a steel-like grip, then working their way into the victims' stomach where they would feed and eventually burst forth, looking for more

Seeing this grisly attack thru a monitor back at the command ship. Ripley, Burke and the Lieutenant look on in shock and horror. Withseem to appear from nowhere and out a moment to lose. Ripley takes attack the Marines who unfortun- over the with the aid of artillary and ately are defenseless. Prior to leav- a flame thrower, rescues the surviv-

Aware that Acheron is overrun

Power Loader against the vicious "Alten

with these alien killers, they decide to contact their landing ship to leave the planet and destroy the installation and its monstrous inhabitants with heavy-duty spacecraft artillery while in orbit. Their chances for escape are demolished when they discover the flight crew have been murdered by the creatures. Finding themselves stranded on a planet crawling with these hideous alien killers, the diminished group fortify themselves in a remote area of the installation.

Their last hope being to remotepilot a rescue craft from the mother ship, android Bishop volunteers to reach it by crawling thru a lengthy narrow passageway leading to communications control room. Hoping to bring one of the alien creatures back with him in the hopes of letting the Company harness the

Learning that Bishop has succeeded in landing the rescue ship near the installation, the group advance toward it, but another savage attack by the aliens reduce it to Rintey, Bishop, Newt and a Marine Unexpectedly, Newt tumbles into a lengthy shaft and becomes a prisoner of the creatures where she will become a living cocoon. Driven by a mother's instinct, Ripley arms herself with a weapon that hurls prenades and spouts deadly flames leaves the safety of the ship despite Bishop's warnings to rescue Newt.

After finding Newt unharmed in a remote area of the station, the pair try to locate a passageway back to the ship. Instead, they stumble into the egg chamber of the giant alien Queen. Time stands still as Ripley locks stares with the deadly creature, then suddenly ignites the nest with her weapon. With the Queen in pursuit, the pair reach the





counter with the alien (above). Face to face with the killer Queen (below).

Director James Cameron instructs Sigourney Weaver in her harrowing en-

two by the Queen who struggles to enter the ship. Trying to protect Newt, Ripley engages in a titanic battle with the Queen alien by manning a large robot power loader. Using the massive hydraulic arms as weapons, Ripley gets the upperhand briefly, but in their furious battle, both fall down into an airlock. But Ripley, with supreme effort, manages to liberate the rescue ship from the creature who falls into the blackness of space.

ooking back on the making of ALIENS, director James Cameron recalled that in order to make the sequel work, we had to focus on a main character - Ripley. who was the sole survivor. "So we wrote the story around her and nicked up where the original film

the way, the Ripley character was originally a man in the story. Anyway, Sigourney Weaver is a sweet, gentle person - not the aggressive. gun-toting character she plays in the film. We shot the film in Pinewood Studios in England with a surprisingly modest budget of 17 million, though it might look more than that. But that is due to the creative abilities of the producer. Gale Anne Hurd, who kent a hawklike eye on the budget."

Special Effects man Stan Winston whose credits included TER-MINATOR and INVADERS FROM MARS remake recalled that ALIENS was quite a challenge to make. "ALIENS was the biggest effects film I had ever been involved with. We had to create a nightmare war on a planet overrun with these strange alien creatures!" He rubbed his jaw as he remembered the many problems he faced and

overcame - everything from creating a baby alien bursting from the chest of a half-dead human being used as in incubator to designing a full size Queen nearly 20 feet tall. "To give the illusion, we installed 2 prop men inside the form of the creature to animate her several insect-like limbs. We also used hydraulic control to simulate all-

an encounter with one of the aliens.

around realistic body movement." Actor Lance Henriksen, who played the Android, Bishop, reflected on his role in ALIENS: "Though the android role didn't set off my career on fire, I found the part to be a challenge. I knew it was not going to be a kind of bug-eved, nuts and bolts robot, but an almost threedimensional character who looks about as ordinary as your next door neighbor. I even went to a deal of

trouble in spending money out of my own pocket to purchase a pair of double-pupil lenses to give the Android a slightly strange look, I also tried to contribute other ideas in fleshing out the character, but the director eventually discarded most of them. As I remember, he was probably right. They were too way out."

The actor added: "In the script, my character had to contend with prejudice against Androids from Ripley. As my character's personality (programming) doesn't have any prejudice itself, but an inborn naivete or innocence. This to me. was the most fascinating part of the character - how it reacted to certain situations in different ways. So any prejudice aimed in Bishop's direction did not deter him from doing his job - the job he was programmed to do - insure the safety of the crew during the interstellar flight to Acheron as they search for the missing 100 members of the Earth Colony who vanished mysteriously." Henriksen concluded: "It was an unusual role to play in a film which I think has become a classic of its kind. I feel proud to have been a part of it."



THIS ISLAND EARTH



publicità shot.



THIS ISLAND EARTH

Cast and Credits Jeff Morrow Exeter Faith Domergue Ruth Adams Cal Meacham Rex Reason Lance Fuller Brack Russell Johnson Steve Carlson Robert Nichols Joe Wilson Adolph Engelborg Karl Lindt Douglas Spencer Monitor Mutant Regis Parton A Universal 1955 release. Produced by William Alland. Directed by Joseph Newman, Screenplay by Franklin Coen and Edward G. O'Callaghan. Based on the Novel by Raymond F. Jones. Cinematography and Special Effects, Clifford Stine Mechanical Effects, Charlie Baker, Special Effects Dept. Head, Fred Knoth, Art Direction, Alexander Golitzen and Richard H. Riedel Film Editor. Virgil Vogel Make-up, Chris Mueller Jr., Jack Kevan, Bob Dawn, Robert Hickman and Bud Westmore. Special Photography, David S Horsley

uring the fifties, when low budget black and out-put. Even-Fetion films monopolized the Hollwood out-put. Universal made their first entry into the genre with a 3-d ef-fort. IT GAME FROM OUTER SPACE in 1955 Encouraged by its success, they decided to pull out all the stops in their next production. THIS ISLAND EARTH. which was based on a storw which appear.

In the control room, Exeter (Jeff Morrow) shows Earthlings, Ruth Adams and Cal Meacham (Faith Dominique and Jeff Morrow), the bombardement of his planet Metaluna by a nearby hostile planet,

ed in a 1952 issue of "Thrilling Wonder Stories." THIS ISLAND EARTH was photographed in Technicolor which enhanced its eyeboggling special effects.

ooggming special enects.

One of the most spectacular scenes in the film was a space ship being attacked by huge meteors as it came closer to its destination, a dying planet. Though the film turned out to be a superior effort in the genre, it did not result in the box office success as the studie hoped for,



making THIS ISLAND EARTH their last sci fi production on a big budget and in color Universal's an advanced civilization, is dving product for the rest of the decade were all shot in black and white while their budgets were reduced to a more modest level.

ar away in a distant galaxy, Metaluna, a planet containing due to continuous attacks by a hostile planet, Zahgon, Desperate for nuclear energy to strengthen their planet's protective shields, Exeter (Jeff Morrow), one of their top scientists, is sent to earth on a mis-

sion to secure this vital energy. Arriving there, he persuades several important nuclear scientists, including Dr. Cal Meacham and Dr. Ruth Adams, also an expert in nuclear fission, to travel to a secluded laboratory in Georgia to engage in a mysterious top secret project involving atomic energy.

Suspicious of Exeter's motives. Meacham and Adams soon learn the real reason: They and the other assembled scientists are prisoners and must discover new sources of nuclear energy in the shortest possible time to save his planet from complete destruction. Those that refuse will be exposed to the rays from the Memory Transference Machine turning them into subor-

The sudden appearance of the Metaluna Mutant brings danger and uncertainty to the lives of the two Earthlings who are trying to return home from the planet Metaluna.





dinates with no will to resist.

Meacham and Adams attempt to escape with other scientists. All are killed except Meacham and Adams who manage to take off in a small unguarded plane. But while in flight, a strange craft above them bathes them in a green light as their plane is slowly drawn into the mouth of what now appears to be a saucer-shaped space ship manned by Exeter.

Setting his course for Metaluna, Exeter informs his prisoners that they will continue his experiments there and assures them they will not be harmed. The space ship immedtately goes into a faster-than-light speed as Exeter and the two scientists are placed into a state of suspended animation for the rest of the journey thru space

Arriving on Metaluna, Exeter discovers only a few remaining Metalumans are left alive due to the increasing bombardment from the enemy forces. Brought before the Planetary Leader (The Monitor), Meacham and Adams discover that he lacks the humanitarian qualities found in Exeter as he unfolds his plan to take over the earth and then orders the prisoners to be lobotom-

Realizing their fate, Meacham and Adams flee for the safety of the space ship but are stopped by a Metalunian Mutant, a horrible creature bred as slave workers by the Metalunians, Moved by their fate. Exeter assists the earthlings in reaching the ship, but is clawed by the creature

The space ship, with three

Panoramic view of planet Metaluna showing Exeter leading the two Earth-lines, Cal and Ruth, to the space ship to

aboard, manages to take off just when Metaluna becomes a burning planet when their protective shields have now totally disintegrated under the unrelenting attacks of Zahgon's war crafts' artillary.

After the space ship enters the earth's atmosphere, Meacham discovers Exeter's wounds are serious and pleads with him to accompany them to earth for treatment, but he refused. After the plane containing the scientists safely leave the space ship, Exeter crashes the ship and himself into the ocean.

irector Joseph Newman remarked on the filming of THIS ISLAND EARTH, "As this was Universal's first experience in shooting such a wide variety of special effects in Technicolor, it did present quite a challenge However. as we had working with us first rate technicians, we managed to overcome various problems before shooting actually started. Though the studio ballyhooed that the film was actually 21/2 years in the making, it was actually much less than that due to the careful preproduction planning. The total shooting time only took around 45 days. Whatever implausibilities in the plot existed, they were more than compensated for by the evefilling wonders of the Metalunian civilization, the desolation of their

space ship, the incredible burning meteors and the sinister "big-brained" insect men."

Actor Jeff Morrow recalled the preparation for his role as the shen, "Exeter," who played an important.

role in THIS ISLAND EARTH. "I had to be in the make-up dept. at 6 o'clock in the morning so I could be on the set at 8 o'clock. This character was supposed to be an intellectually superior alien from another planet so I had to wear an enlarged rubber bead-niece about a

foot high covered with white hair.







As it was originally applied in the morning and covered with cosmeties for the Technicolor cameras, I couldn't even remove it for the daily lunch break — I had to wear it all day. There were other actors who also played Metalunians and had to wear the same make-up, but they didn't have to wear ther make-ups as long as I did because their scenes weren't as long as

mine. Though I made many films after that one. THIS ISLAND EARTH turned out to be the film that I would be remembered for the most I still get fan msil from film buffs for it!"

One of the chief highlights of THIS ISLAND EARTH was the Metalunian Mutant, half mutant, half meet. The credit for the nightmarish design of this alien creature

Scientist Cal Meacham rushes to the aid of Exeter who has been wounded by the Metalunian Mutant.

mostly belongs to the late sculptor. Chris Mueller Jr. whose creative abilities contributed to the many horror creations produced by Universal during the fifties. The finalized design for the large head and body costume eventually worn by (Costnawa of Drags #8)

MAKER OF MONSTERS

hausted. I needed help to get out of my costume. It took weeks to get the water out of the suit. I stomped on it. put weights on it and everything else - trying to get the water out!" The costume for THE SHE CREATURE was also used in four other films, also produced by American International. It also made an appearance on Television to pluo the film. THE SHE CREATURE was later remade under the title. CREATURE OF DESTRUC-TION

His next assignment reunited him with Director Roger Cormen for IT CONQUERED THE WORLD. The script concerned an alien Venusian creature who menaced an isolated midwestern community and a horder-

done before. Paul remembered, "After creature would make a defiant appearplanet Venus and came to the conclusion that if it would have any life make it look as far removed from anything resembling animal-like. I whinped up a nightmarish creation resembling a pear-shaped, cucumber like creature, with two mobile, branch like arms," Mounted on wheels. Paul would crouch inside the rubbercovered wooden-framed structure, in tumes. Paul's friend, Bob Burns, reorder to give it the necessary life-like movement when the script demanded

Paul continued, "In order to save money. Roger used locations as much he was the smallest, veteran actor An as possible, so I hauled the creature out to Bronson Canyon, Originally, the creature was supposed to be in a dark ing space satellite base. Learning the cave all the time so an air of mystery producers wanted something com- would surround it. But Roger decidpletely different from anything he had ed it would be more effective if the

weighed an extra 100 lbs. I was so ex- several days of research, I dug up ance outside its hiding place and be some background material on the destroyed by a charge of bayonetarmed soldiers. He also wanted the creature to appear dead by having it it would be vegetable. In trying to living on its side!" In spite of his protests, the scene was filmed that way One critic said, "It produced more tit ters than terror "

> The studio's next production IN-VASION OF THE SAUCER MEN gave Blaisdelf his first experience in creating Martian make up and coscalled. "The over-sized heads were made of fiber glass in Paul's workshop and were worn by midgets. Because gelo Rossitto played the leader of the saucer men " Burns added, "Me and Paul wore the heads for close shots which were shot in ZIV studios. Because the studio had a tight budget. we shot all the special effects in one



Blassdell, wearing one of his creations, a hideous "Mutant" carries off a fainted Lori Nelson in a scene from THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED



day. Paul did a lot of special effects chore for American International was on that film which included a promi- VOODOO WOMAN, a film Paul prenent eveball attached to each of the ferred to forget. Because of lower Martian's hands. The orbs would per- budget restrictions than usual, he was form like periscopes. If any impending forced to revemp his She Creature danger crossed its path, it would vis- costume. "I removed the tail and placibly vibrate and send signals to the rest ed a burlap dress around it to conceal of the creature's body!" Blaisdell's uni- the She Creature's costume. To top it que creations, as usual, were prominently emphasized in the film's public ed by a white wig was added by someity, no doubt contributing to the suc- one else. This became the "Voodgo cess at the box office

little-known American Internat-Shelley. Finding the film disappoinshowing the star turning into a "Cat Girl". So. Paul was called on to impersonate the actress in a scene. He recalled, "I very quickly created a mask of a cat and a pair of paw gloves made of rubber latex and crepe hair in my workshop. This I wore uncluding a pajama top, identical to the pajama top Shelley wears in the film. This brief scene was spliced into the print." Blaisdell's last "Monster" costume

Ray "Crash" Corrigan as the alien carrying off the heroine in IT! THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE



off, a not very effective mask crown-Woman" coetume "

During the filming, a nasty accident occurred which would have been prevented if someone would have checkional film that Blaisdell was ed out the "props" more carefully. In associated with was a British film call- one scene, a mad doctor tries to prove ed THE CAT GIRL starring Barbara to a skeptical onlooker how indestructible his "zombie woman" creation is tingly dull, the producers decided to by pouring acid on the creature's leg. enliven it by inserting a brief scene. Unfortunately, the acid was not harmless as Paul was led to believe and Paul carried a scar on his leg for the rest of

> Paul's last "Monster" creation was for ITI THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE (1958) Though the film was not made for budget-conscious American International, the Producer Edward Small was still keeping a sharp eye on expenses, "I was given a little more money to work with this time -but the schedule was still the same 'Get the costume ready for shooting a week from Monday!" What made this film different from his previous efforts was that he was not chosen to play the alien creature - Veteran acperform this task.

the beginning of the project was that for some unexplained reason Corrigan wouldn't journey to Paul's home to have his measurements taken - but the actor did ship his underwear to Blaisdell who methodically constructed a scaly skin of rubber over it. The plot of IT! THE TERROR FROM BE-YOND SPACE focused on travelers on a spacecraft being menaced by a blood drinking, near indestructible Martian monster. Though the film is a reasonably exciting thriller, it is more remembered today for its alleged inspiration to the successful box office hit. ALIEN (1979).

Blaisdell's last appearance as a Monster was in American International's GHOST OF DRAGSTRIP HOL-



Though Peter Gayes tries, he's no match for the Venusian in IT (ONGI'ERED THE WORLD

LOW (1959) This was a teenage monster spoof where he made a quest appearance wearing his She Creature costume for the last time. Aside from creating monster suits. Paul also built sets and props, including designing props for films like HOW TO MAKE A MONSTER (1958). NOT OF THIS EARTH (1958), ATTACK OF THE PUPPET PEOPLE (1957). THE SPID ER (1958) and THE AMAZING COL OSSAL MAN (1957).

As the fifties ended, the indepen dents stopped using Blaisdell. He returned to illustrating magazine covers tor "Crash" Corrigan was assigned to His last association in the industry was in a West Coast publication called A problem that bugged Blarsdell at "Fantastic Monsters" where he was credited as managing editor and even wrote a regular column called. "The Devil's Workshop," Alex Gordon, who produced some of Blaisdell's films. summed up Paul's career, "In those days. Paul's creative abilities in making "Monsters" on modest budgets was invaluable to American International, but as the studio grew in size. making more expensive pictures, they stopped making those inexpensive horror films, Inevitably, Paul, along with other creative people, were phased out (he died in 1983). I believe if he would have adjusted to working with more advanced make-up techniques. he probably would have lasted longer in the industry. Nevertheless, his unique talents will not be forgotten.

STRANGE INVADERS

A secret alien colony inside the United States





STRANGE INVADERS

Cast and Credits Charles Bigelow Paul LeMat Betty Walker Nancy Allen Margaret Diana Scarwid Willie Collins Michael Lerner Mrs. Benjamin Louise Fletcher Earl Wallace Shawn Waitress/Avon Lady . . Fiona Lewis Arthur Newman . Kenneth Tobey Mrs. Bigelow.June Lockhart Professor Hollister.. Charles Lane Elizabeth Lulu Sylbert An Orion Pictures Release. Produced by Walter Coblenz. Directed by Michael Laughlin Screenplay by William Condon and Michael Laughlin, Cinematography by Louis Horvath. Music by John Addison. Art Direction by Emad Helmy. Special Visual Effects by Private Stock Effects, Inc. (Chuck Comisky, Ken Jones, Larry Benson), Visual Effects Design by John Nuto and Robert Skotak Production and Costume Design by Susanna Moore. Set Decoration by Gus Meunier. Alien Effects Unit by Margaret Besserra, Luc Champagne. Martin Coblenz, Stephan Dunnis, Louise Mignault, Barbara Palmer, Bill

(Above) The Invaders mothership coming to Earth in Centerville. (Below) The Invaders at the entrance to their spaceship.



Sturgeon and Brian Wade Make-Up by Ken Brooke. Film Editor, John W. Wheeler.

TRANGE INVADERS is an interesting, off-beat send-up to the 1950's Science-Fiction paranoia films ground out during that period like INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS and IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE, stirring even more memories from the later CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND. Though the plot may seem familiar - weird creatures from a distant planet who invade a small town and take possession of its inhabitants, a '50's plot gimmick used repeatedly - the difference in STRANGE INVADERS is that the government has agreed to the takeover (a fantastic impossibility if one is familiar with the conservative foreign policies during the Eisenhower administration, but this is a minor point).

n 1988, the government agrees to a pact with aliens from another planet to gather anthropological data for their files during a twenty-five year period. This segor itation, of course, its sept sevent prom the public. Shortly after, a large space ship appears over a small farm town in the midwest, called Centerville. A flying saucer drops out of the mother ship and starts sapping each house with a strange blue light, resulting in alien beings taking over the bodies of the town residents.

One of these aliens, now in the body of a young woman, Margaret, is sent to New York to study a different kind of Barth life There she meets and marries a Columbia University Entomologist. Charles Bilelow (Paul LeMat), resulting in a daughter, Elizabeth. But had daughter with her. Twenty-hric daughter with her. Twenty-hric years later, their research completed, the alless prepare to leave Earth and return home. Margaret, however, decided she will stay on Earth. She secretly leaves Centre vulle with her daughter and arrives

After checking into a New York City hotel, an alien Invader (Al Roberts) begins to remove his human disguise.



in New York. There, she leaves Elizabeth with her ex-husband, promising to return and pick up her daughter later

After Margaret falls to return,
After Margaret falls to return,
Charles leaves his daughter outh his
mother and journeys to Centerville,
hoping to locate his ex-wife. But he
finds the town's inhabitant sets
strangely uncommunicative. After
his dog mysteriously disappear,
his dog mysteriously disappear,
with a bite getoning light which
nearly wrechs his car. Feeling his
life threatened. Charles leaves Centerville, but not before he spots a
nightmarsh, out of this worddyioloking creature, dressed in farm
clothes on the road.

Diana Scarwid, trying to save her daughter, is about to be captured by

Kenneth Tobey and some of the In-

vaders who have already changed form.

Returning to New York, he learns on one will believe his story, including a Government UFO Speciality. Mrs. Benjamin, who informs him that the town of Centr-ville was destroyed by a tornada and the destroyed by a tornada and the nes since. After reading a supermarket tabular article containing a foto of an alten he had seen in Centerville, he tracks down its writer. Betty Walker, who its writer. Betty Walker, who its writer. Betty walker, who the most of the containing a foto was sent by someone from the midlicest.

After Betty encounters a strange usitor who mysteriously causes the uncanny disappearance of her building superintendent, Charles believes the aliens have followed him to New York. Suddenly, his exuife Margaret shows up begging him to hide their daughter, but the will not reveal her reasons. Following an attempt on her life in an elevator while leaving Bigelow's apartment, Betty finally believes his story. Realizing the allens are on their trut, they declete to leave New York. Suddenly, Mrs. Benjamin appears and reveals the government's awareness of their problem, but states they cannot help them.

Realizing the sender of the foto which appeared in her paper might help solve part of this mystery. Betty and Charles decide to track him down. After locating the foto's owner, Wilke Collins, in an institution near Centerville, he reveals that an encounter with aliens in the basement of a church in Centerville years ago caused his wife and child to be abducted by them. Unable to convince anyone of his story, he has been institutionalized ever since. Realizing Retty and Charles may need help. Collins escapes from the hospital and joins them

On the outskirts of Centerville. the trio are stopped by Federal men and Mrs. Benjamin who insist they are intruding on government business. But Charles suddenly pulls out a gun and drives past the roadblock to safety. Arriving at Centerville, they learn Elizabeth is in the clutches of the aliens. Before they attempt a rescue, they are cantured by the aliens who decide to take Charles, Betty and Willie with them also, Collins physically tries to prevent them from taking Elizabeth. but he is reduced to a without shall by a mysterious glowing blue globe of light. Before the aliens enter the craft with their prisoners, they remove their human masks revealing hideous, lizard-like alien heads. Inside the space ship just before the take-off, Margaret uses her alien's powers to free Charles, Betty and her daughter. As Charles and Elizabeth watch the space ship containing Margaret disappear into the sky, all the people apparently killed or abducted by the aliens reappear and are reunited with their families.



Kenneth Tobey, Diana Scarwid, Luly Sylbert and Paul LeMat with a group of "townspeople" walking toward the Alien craft.

byjously obsessed with the fifties, STRANGE INVAD-ERS displays more fondness towards its derivitive sources than most take-offs. Even some scenes which border on the horrific have a nostalgic flavor to it. It also contains subtle humor. One example is when the confused hero, searching for someone to believe his story shout aliens, visits a Government, UFO agency who shows him drawings and photos of creatures from outer space that observers have sent in - one of them is a foto of Steven Spielberg.

It also takes sly digs at Junk Journalsm. The film's heroine, Betty Walker, a resident journalist at "The National Informer", reveals be article about aliens was phoney after the hero spots the article on the newstand. For the record, STRANGE INVADERS may be the first film to include a supermarket tabloid in the script as a profession for the lead heroine.

Intrigued by the unreality of the Cold War and the eruption of the postwar imagination, Director Michael Laughlin revealed that the supporting players were picked for certain roles because they were associated with '50's and early '60's, adding a nostalgic flavor to the production, e.g. actor Kenneth Tobey (for his role in THE THING) and actress June Lockhart (for her LOST IN SPACE TV series).

Special effects include some spec-

tacular sequences showing sudden appearances of glowing blue spheres signalling an unpleasant fate for its victims. Best remembered scene was a creeny, but fascinating one - After an alien couple check into a hotel room, one of them goes into a bathroom and rips off his human mask, revealing the rentilian visage of the alien underneath. Laughlin recalled how this was achieved, "The actor, Al Roberts, who plays a character described as "a man with dark glasses". transforms from a human into an alien by spending 12 hours prior to filming to have molds made of his head and torso. After the final touches of false hair and paint, this becomes an identical double or a human-sized puppet "

A Special Effects Man continued, "Before this duplicate of Roberts is used, the real Al Roberts steps into a specially lit scene by filling a glass of water. He is then replaced with the duplicate puppet, positioned as the same height as the actor. anchored to the floor with sandbags. This life-like puppet was operated by several members of the Alien Effects Unit watching and controlling the process, one person worked the head, the other the arm while others blew on tubes attached to bladders to swell the face and top of head after the hair is ripped off. After the lower half of the face is pulled away, the pullet, which is operated with over twenty cables. emerges focusing its oversized sleeny rentilian eyes, looking frighteningly alive."

Though the film sometimes shifts noticeably in tone from light-hearted satire to occasional scenes of borror jolts, this unevenness is overlooked in the climax when the strangs blue shere appears and restores its victims to life, revealing the aliens are not as bad as one would believe. STRANGE INVAD-ERS was a refreshing departing from the normal glut of space films which were released at that the

6



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THE ABYSS

A strange and magical encounter below the sea.



A team of Navy SEALs investigate the missile hatches of the downed USS MONTANA while the submersible CAB 3 hovers nearby.



Ed Harris (second from left, as Bud Brigman) shares a final moment with Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio (third from right, as Lindsey Brigman) before making a perilous descent into "the ABYSS", a two-und-a-half-mile-deep trench in the ocean floor.

THE ABYSS

Cast and Credits Bud Brigman Ed Harris Lindsey Mary Mastrantonio Lt. Coffey Michael Biehn Catfish Leo Burmester Hippy Todd Greff John Bedford Lloyd Jammer Sonny J C. Quinn One Night Kimberly Scott Lew Finler . . Capt. Kidd Brewer Jr. Wilhite George Robert Klek Schoenick Christopher Murphy A 20th Century Fox release. Produced by Gale Anne Hurd Direction and Screenplay by James Cameron, Cinematography by Mikael Salamon, Music by Alan Silvestri. Supervising Art Direction by Peter Childs. Underwater Unit Supervisor and Camera, Al Giddings, Visual Effects Supervisors, John Burno, Hoyt Yeatman, Dennis Muren, Robert Skotak and Gene Warren, Jr. Special Visual Effects by Dream Quest. Images, Industrial Light & Magic and Fantasy II Film Effects, Stunt Coordinator, Dick Warlock. Film Editor, Joel Goodman.

nderwater adventure epic films have surfaced periodically thru the years - Jules Verne's 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA. MYSTERIOUS ISLAND, UN-DERWATER, WAR-GODS OF THE DEEP Some have made a big splash and some have sank without a trace. But some have succeeded box-office and artistically wise. Recent efforts like DEEP-STAR SIX, LEVIATHAN and Roger Corman's LORDS OF THE DEEP have indicated Hollywood's recent interest in the genre, but these films, of varying interesting special effects, have left no lasting impressions

20th Century Fox's recent effort, ABYSS, however, seems to have hat the bull's eve. Its rescue mission plot involving a nuclear warhead search for survivors in the submarwinding up in the hands of a mili- ine

tary madman is enlivened by high tech special effects including a group of realistic sea aliens. Aided by a good cast, this 40 million dollar production also includes some excellent underwater photography making this an absorbing 2 and 1/2 hour epic.

his tale of wonder and discov-A ery beneath the sea begins when a Navy nuclear submarine (USS Montana) suffers an unexplainable power failure and smashes into a racky wall in the depths of the Caribbean. Learning there is an underwater oil drilling facility (the "Deepcore") on the ocean floor nearby, the Navy makes arrangements with its owners, Benthic Petroleum, to borrow the oil rig and its crew to





qualified to undergo such a danger- water rescue operation, is a four ous assignment especially with the man team of Navy SEALS, headed present threat of radiation from the by Lt. Coffey. Arriving at the site. nuclear warheads aboard. Bud they discover the sub is resting pre-Brigman (Ed Harris), head foreman cariously on the craggy brink withof the oil rig. is reluctant to co- in the Cayman Trough - an abyss operate. Learning the Nauv is going which extends more than two and to use the "Deepcore" for the res- a half miles straight down cue operation. Lindsey Brigman, estranged wife of Bud Brigman and the battered submarine for surdesigner of the oil rig, arrives from vivors, but discover nothing but Houston to make sure that nothing lifeless bodies floating in the waterwill happen to it during this mis filled compartments. Doing some sion

Bud and the rescue diners search exploring he self in diving year.

a strange-looking creature resembling a luminous cross between a jelly fish and a butterfly. Believing she has discovered a rare form of nonterrestrial aben intelligence. Lindsev tells Bud of her strange experience, but he is skeptical.

A hurricane soon arrives, nearly wrecking the Navy command ship above, its falling debris endangering the Deepcore, directly below, Recovering from their near disaster, the shaken crew of Deencore immediately begin to repair the dammunication has been severed from their command ship.

Soon, Lindsey discovers Lt. Coftev has smuggled a nuclear warhead from the submarine into the oil rig Realizing Coffey has gone beserk from water-pressure induced psychosis, Lindsey tries to reason with him, but fails. Cut off from his chain of command, Coffey concocts a bizarre plan to use the oil rig as a launching pad for the warhead Hoping to kill everyone in the Deepplans go astray by the sudden appearance of a non-terrestrial alien creature in the oil rig After it releases the crew, it mysteriously disannears.

Believing the alien creature is a product of the military, the crazed Lieutenant intends to sink the Deencore, taking the warhead with him, intending to destroy the creature with it But Bud tries to prevent this in a furious life and death struggle with Coffey While core first by locking them in trying to escape Coffey is killed

I the workend falls to the bottom of the two-and-a-half-mile deep trench

Aware that the warhead is constructed to detonate at a certain time, the occupants of Deepcore realize that the fate of the oceans of the world are hanging in the halance Despite the dangers involved. Rud decides to unfunteer to retrieve the uarhead resting at the bottom of the trench. Following a perilous descent into the depths where no mortal has ventured before, Bud discovers the warhead and carefully



On the side of a two-and-a-half-mile-deep trench in the ocean floor, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio has an encounter with a non-terrestrial intelligence

he has not enough oxygen left in his tank to make the ascent back.

At this moment, out of the blackness of the depths, a strange sight appears. Bud. unable to believe in my life - I believe that the probwhat is happening, is visited by a large group of friendly nonterrestrial aliens who bring him to breakthroughs for a film of this a strange underworld city where he is able to breathe oxygen without the aid of compressed air. Soon, Bud rises out of the sea on a platform created by the alien creatures where he is rejoined with Lindsey and his fellow crewmen.

lear submarine, an under-70

fails is the brainchild of producerdirector James Cameron who regarded the making of THE ABYSS, "As the biggest challenge lems we encountered and solved during the making of this film were type." Possibly setting a record. 40% of the film was shot underwater on submerged sets using actors, keeping doubles to the mini-

Cameron added, "Since there was so much underwater stuff, we had to convince the audience that the actors weren't doubles. As the standard diving gear did not permit the camera to visibly see faces, the inhis epic tale of a stricken nuc- dustry serviced our production by creating faceplates, revealing the water oil rig, a devastating hurri- front and side profile. Also a new cane and mysterious sea aliens who form of underwater communication in the water, our skin would become

was developed so sound could be taped live in the tanks. Intending to avoid the unpredictable problems of ocean filming and the inevitable problems it presented like swiftly changing currents, sharks and water visibility, the production unit moved to Gaffney, North Carolina and settled down alongside an abandoned nuclear nower station where two huge tanks capable of holding ten million gallons of water were built.

Actor Ed Harris, who played Bud Brigman, foreman of the oil rig Deepcore, recalled the physical problems he and the actors encountered during the making of THE ABYSS, "To their credit, in order to make it comfortable for the actors and divers, the water was filtered and treated to a temperature of 85 degrees. But after three hours

damp and clammy." Harris continued, "Also, we had weights attached to our waists and ankles so we couldn't float out of camera position. But if something went wrong. we couldn't swim to safety.'

Harris recalled Cameron warning him about the demands of the role. "If you are claustraphobic, dislike being immersed in water and are not ready to work harder than you ever did before in your life, don't, take this role!" Harris added that prior to shooting, they had to undergo extensive underwater dive training, so they would be prepared to film up to three hours at a time underwater, during a ten to twelve hour shooting day.

Harris winced when he recalled that the worst moment occurred when he was encased in a suit in which he was supposed to be breathing a special fluid which was supposed to permit his character to breathe normally even at the deepest depths

"Because the regulator was improperly in position, the fluid was rushing up my nose and my eyes began swelling up. For a brief second, I thought this was the end -- but Al Giddings, a professional diver. swam over and adjusted it to the proper position.

As the tanks were built to accommodate shooting in depths of 55 feet of water, the cast and crew had to deal with compression problems This was avoided by having all divers breathe compressed air. To save time in replenishing their air supply by constantly returning to the surface, an underwater filling station was designed where divers had their tanks refilled as if they were cars being filled with gasohne. Fortunately, THE ABYSS was completed without any casualties. The only injuries suffered were minor ear infections, a usual occupational hazard for divers.

Aside from the various problems

facing Director-Producer James Cameron during the making of THE ABYSS was the task of creating an unusual sea alien for the film. In one of its few screen appearances, the creature is supposed to appear as a snake-like tube of water and assume the appearances of two leading characters in the film. What made this task difficult was that fluid is the hardest substance to control. After five months of experimentation, Dennis Muren, head of the Special Effects Dept. at Industrial Light and Magic got together with his staff and came up with a solution involving computers.

So, in what barely totals two minutes of screen time, this nonterrestrial alien creature (the Pseudopod) comes to life with the assistance of man-made technology, making this a cinematic event.

- Nicholas Rayen

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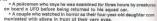
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jects in return for journeys on board a spacecraft.

• A middle-aged woman who says she was actually impregnated by her strange "hosts" with wrap-around eyes who confronted her while being examined inside a diamond-shaped object from applies solar

system.

Several dozen individuals have also recently come forward who claim
that strange "monitoring" devices or "scanners" have actually been
implement to be be a few or the strange of the strange of

that strange "monitoring" devices or "scanners" have actually been implanted into their brains through which the ETs are able to contact them at any time.

Researcher Jenny Randies has studied such cases for over half a decade. Her

nessector eventy rannear has studied such cases for over half a decade her approach is rational though the topic lends listed for an extraordinary high degree of strangeness. Indeed, the author of ALIEN ABDUCTIONS — THE MYS-TERY SOLVED. Offers evidence that something lentibly important to the entire human race is going on and is being kept secret by the military and the government.

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THE THING

A 100,000 year-old frozen survivor of a space ship from outer space terrorizes an Antarctic outpost!



Searching for any signs of life in the deserted Norwegian research camp near the Pole, MucReady discovers the fused



Cast and Credits Nauls T. K. Carter Palmer David Clennon Childs Keith David Richard Dysart Norris Charles Hallahan Garry Donald Moffat Fuchs. Joel Polis Windows Thomas Waites Norwegian Norbert Weisser A Universal release, Produced by David Foster and Lawrence Turman Directed by John Carpenter. Screenplay by Bill Lancaster. Based on the story "Who Goes there?" by John W. Campbell Jr. Cinematography by Dean Cundey. Music by Ennio Morricone, Art Direction by Henry Larrecq. Set Decoration by John Dwyer. Set Decoration (British Columbia) by Greeme Murray, Special Make-Up Effects creation and Design, Rob Bottin Special Visual Effects, Albert Whitlock. Special Effects, Roy Arbogast. Film Editor, Todd Ramsay.

he director of THE THING, John Carpenter revealed recently that he always disliked graphic violence

MacReady and credits and gore and only used it in his films when it was necessary. "A film which revolted me is Herschell Blair and T. K. Germen Childs and Credits Gordon Lewis BLOOD FEAST." Carpenter remarked that the critics Childs Keith Daw were unfair stating that his remake Dr. Copper Richard Dynart Norris Charles Hallahas scenes which were outsersively grouped that the critics of THE THING (*51) contained Bennings Peter Maloney Clark Richard Massauer or of the Howard Hawks' version.

Members of the U.S. Expedition unspect a helicopter which crashed after attacking their compound (above). Blav (A. Wilford Brimley) and Clark (Richard Masur) examine a dog which has mysteriously died (below).

Carpenter resisted Universal's desire to insert a happy ending. He continued, "The films that were fun to make were the small, inexpensive films like HALLOW-EEN This was because you have



more freedom to experiment and practically nothing to lose. Working with a big budget film like THE THING is the fear of failure. Which is why we went overboard in a few scenes. But I do believe these scenes were necessary to reveal the creature's awesome destructive powers and the helplessness of its human victims. In my version, I still believe we were more faithful to the original John W. Campbell Jr. story than the Hawks' version and gave the audiences what they wanted - a whopping 106 minutes of entertainment for their money."

The story opens up in the frozen wastes of Antarctica near the Pole in the winter of 1982. A helicopter manned by a Norwegian scientist is mysteriously chasing a dog thru the white waste, trying to hill









ror, that if the alien intruder reaches civilization, the entire world population will be infected within first contact. Believing anyone of the members of the Station may be infected, Blair locks himself in his room after padlocking the mutated remains in the store room

In Blair's absence, his assistant Rare, unpublished close-up of Norris' Fuchs discovers Blair's notes and from them learns that any apparent "dead" remains of the creature still contains cellular life and that they might present a threat to any lifeforms nearby. In the meantime, a creature arises from the mutated re-

mains in the store room and attacks Bennings. Realizing Bennings' body is infected, MacReady torches him with a flame thrower, despite protestations by Bennings' friend. MacReady decides to destroy the



MacReady and the rest with a gun After he is overpowered and given a tranquilizer by Fuchs, he is locked in a store room. MacReady learns someone has killed the dogs and destroyed the helicopter, leaving them stranded, thousands of miles from civilization! Realizing one of the men must be the alien creature. Fuchs suggests that each take a blood sample for a blood serum test to determine the identity of the alien intruder But someone breaks into the room where the samples are stored and sabotages and manages to kill Nauls, the Stathe experiment. After Fuchs is

from a blow. A doctor tries to revive him, but a gruesome alien creature suddenly bursts out of Norris' chest, devouring the doctor's hand! Also, Norris' head is consumed by the creature, falls to the ground and is transformed into a crab-like creature waving slimy tentacles! Before it can infect them, Mac-Ready destroys it with a flamethrouger!

MacReady resumes the blood serum test among the remaining group - Palmer turns out to be infected tion's cook! He attempts to escape found to be infected and is destroy- by jumping thru a window, but is pursued by MacReady who destroys him with a flamethrower It is soon discovered that Windows. the radio man, is infected by Palmer and is destroyed in the same man-

MacReady intends to give Blair the blood serum test next, but he discovers he has built a space ship under the store room with parts from the helicopter. He finally realizes Blair is an alien and has destroyed the generators, leaving no heat in the Station, Learning the alien creature intends to go to sleep for the next 1000 years. MacReady decides to blow up the entire Station, hoping to kill Blair But the



stunned to find out what Blair has been secretly building (below).

creature has infected Garry who tries to prevent MacReady from accomplishing this, MacReady, however, realizes Garry is infected and hills him before blowing up the Station. With the growing cold. Mac-Ready faces an uncertain future. with the only other survivor. Childs.

his color wide-screen remake of the famed Howard Hawks' THE THING (1951) is an interestplain old fashioned Horror, Actually, this 2nd version of the John W. Campbell Jr. story bears a superfi-

cial resemblance to the Hawks' classic, resembling more the 1956 film, INVASION OF THE BODY ing mixture of Science-Fiction and SNATCHERS, with a heavy emphasis on the physical revolting.

In trying to attempt a different approach, the producers decided to follow the original story-line. In the story, the creature is a mass of shapeless protoplasm that imitates other life. For most of the story, the creature walks around looking like anvone else. Because Hawks couldn't duplicate the scenes where the creature goes into mutations as described in the original story the producers of the remake, backed by the budget of thirteen million dollars, utilized the most advanced special effects technology in order to bring Campbell's creature to the

The thrilling high point of the 1982 version of THE THING is the grisly scene where an unconscious American scientist is about to be revived with Electro Shock Therapy when all of a sudden, a hideous. slimy alien bursts thru his chest. This repellent scene is quickly followed by the victim's head, sliding



MacReady destroying one of the transformations.

off his neck onto the floor sprouts insect-like legs and waddles

This sequence and other realistic gruesome scenes were the product of the imagination and talents of Rob Bottin and his team of special effects men. Bottin, whose most interesting work up till that point was in THE HOWLING, said that this was the biggest budget film he ever worked on. "I never was subjected to so much pressure in trying to come up with something no one has ever done before. But I had the assistance of a talented crew. like Erik Jensen, Dave Kelsy, Ken Diaz, Gunnar Ferdinansen, Margaret Beserra, Stan Winston and others." Director John Carpenter. who is an admirer of his work, stated that Bottin's work in THE

he's done before

"The original Hawks' version was really the first modern monster from outer space film." commented Screenwriter Bill Lancaster. "The 1951 RKO version was probably inspired by the big UFO scare caused by the appearance of an oversized flying saucer spotted over Mt. Rainier in the late '40's. For the record, the RKO version was the first Science-Fiction film to introduce the military vs scientists theme, a familiar theme now

To remove it further from the Hawks' version. Director Carpenter insisted on an all male cast, reduced down to 12 in this version. Regarding the romantic aspect unimnortant (there was an interlude of this sort between Ken Tobey and Margaret Sheridan which unfortunately slowed up the plot in the 1951 version), he said. "This way there

THING has surpassed anything will be no distraction in the susnense buildup prior to the creature's appearances in the film."

To represent Antarctica, the South Pole, outdoor locations were shot at Stewart, British Columbia on the Alaskan border where a full scale camp was constructed. A unit was also sent to Juneau, to shoot a helicopter chase scene. The rest of the film was shot in soundstages in Universal City, California

Though this high tech remake of THE THING was not as successful as the original version, John Carpenter's version still provides enough shocks in it to give nightmares for generations of fans to come. It also recalls a simpler time in a pre-computer age during the early fifties when we had a fundamental respect for science and an uneasy curiosity of unwelcome visitors from another planet.

- Stephen Jochsberge



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MONSTERS

(Continued From Page 21)





Katy Diertam as The Fever in "The Feverman" segment of MONSTERS.

by the successful ALIEN and other

With the appearance of STAR WARS around this time, the Science-Fiction film took on another dimension. Audiences were overwhelmed with its dazzling gadgetry and spectacular space battles which stirred nostalgic memories of the old Flash Gordon serials. But it also introduced the most imaginative assortment of aliens to appear on screen - from the Tusken Raiders, the evil Lord Darth Vader and the friendly Wookies, proving that aliens will always hold an important place in the scheme of space dramas. As the concerned newspaperman uttered a warning at the conclusion of THE THING "... Keep on watching the skies! ..."



ne Toth in the title role of "Sleep-83
Dragon," on MONSTERS
ZOMDOSCIOSET.com

THIS ISLAND EARTH (Confined from Page 55)



Regis Parton took months to com- ble purpose as a nose. The arms replete. The total cost of the Mutant was \$24,000.

A studio publicist gave this description: "Its head was about 4 times the size of a human's, with the brain completely exposed. Apoplectic eyes project like domes, the network of underlying veins clearly visible. The facial muscles are exposed framing 5 tiers of interlocking mouths, one serving a dou- period will always remember with

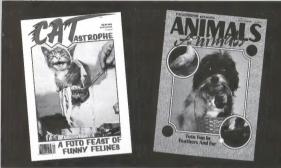
semble limbs on an insect, ending with large crab-like pincers representing hands, dangling down to the ankles "

Though later spectacular alien films like STAR WARD and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND have overshadowed the films of the fifties with their high tech effects, film goers of that Entering the atmosphere of the Earth, Cal and Ruth leave the space ship in their plane while Exeter stays with the doomed craft until it crashes.

nostalgia THIS ISLAND EARTH as one of the more memorable Science-Fiction films of that decade. For the record, the bug-eyed Metaluna Monster, which made a brief appearance in the last reel, became one of the more familiar "Monster" images of the '50's.

- Robert Madison

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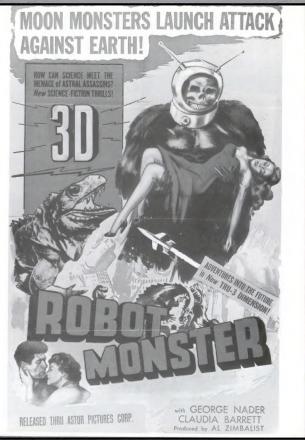
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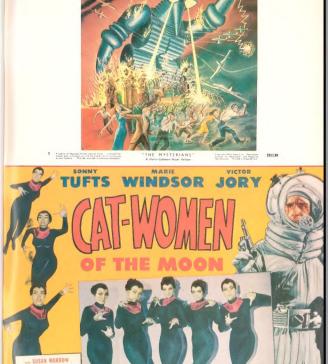
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